Monday, November 9, 2009 A 10 sections | Vol. 24 / No. 224 P15

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

LRT allots 'green zones' for bikers

By Tessa R. Salazar

BICYCLE COMMUTING MIGHT relish to cut travel time while getting some relief from the fumes, noise and maddening traffic of Metro Manila now have a lighter, off-road option.

The Light Rail Transit (LRT) Lines 1 (Baclaran-Monumento) and 2 (Recto-Santolan) yesterday began admitting passengers with bikes in tow, allotting the last coach of each train for these pedal-pushing riders.

Regular fares apply to these so-called "green zone" coaches, but the LRT management is no-

LRT ALLOTS, A11

Are you wiser than an ant?

LEARNING / G1

More Fort Hoods waiting to happen, observers warn

WORLD / A28

Sturdy Kenyan rules Run for Pasig River Marathon

SPORTS / A23

A CYCLIST with a foldable bike in hand prepares to board one of the trains on Line 2 of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) during Sunday's launch of the "Bike-On, Bike-Off" project. The LRT management has set up "green zones" or coaches for urban pedal-pushers, a move warmly welcomed by cycling enthusiasts and commuters.

Ebdane widens 2010 race

'I've crossed bridge; no more turning back'

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE PRESIDENTIAL DERBY WIDENED YESTERday with former Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. formally announcing his intention to run under the Philippine Labor and Peasant Party and declaring "there's no turning back."

A graduate of the Philippine Military Academy and former chief of the Philippine National Police, the 60-year-old Ebdane is the latest aspirant for the No. 1 post in the May elections to announce his candidacy.

The former DND director general said that with four decades of working experience in government, it would be a "sin of omission" if he did not run for president. He said he was seeking the endorsement of former President Fidel Ramos.

"I fight to win so there's no turning back. I have crossed the bridge. I have no intention of going back," Ebdane said after accepting his nomination during the national convention of the Philippine Labor and Peasant Party, formerly Lapiang Manggagawa.

"In my four decades in public service, where service 24/7 is the key to getting the job done, I realized that though I have helped to do much for our country, there is much more that needs to be done," he said.

EBDANE, A13

FORMER PUBLIC WORKS Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane meets some 300 supporters at Gerweng Bonifacio before proceeding to Manila Hotel to announce that he is running for president in the May elections.

GMA urged to run as Gibo's VP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Christian V. Esguerra

ONLY PRESIDENT MACAPAgal-Arroyo can save the ruling party from certain disintegration by running for the No. 2 position in the next year's elections.

Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez said that some of the members of Lakas-Kampi-CMD believed that Mr Arroyo had the power to stop the desertions and provide Defense Secretary Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro, the party's standard-bearer, with the best odds of winning.

"It will be easy to raid Lakas-Kampi, if Gibo does not improve his ratings soon. But Arroyo can

GMA URGED, A13

Pampanga congressional fight may pit Gloria against half-sister

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

LUBAO, PAMPANGA—MACAPAGAL VERSUS ARROYO?

President Macapagal-Arroyo, 62, will likely face her older half-sister, former Vice Gov Girlie Macapagal-Salgado, if they both heed a clamor to contest a congressional seat in Pampanga in the May elections.

Salgado confirmed yesterday that Gov Eddie Panlilio had told her that civil society leaders were asking her to lead the Liberal Party (LP) slate in the second district.

"Yes, Among Ed communicated

PAMPANGA, A12

Retailers threaten to stop LPG sale

By Amy R. Remo

RETAILERS OF LIQUEFIED petroleum gas (LPG) yesterday said they may be forced to stop selling cooking gas should the government continue to impose price cuts on petroleum products until next month.

"We are opposing [Executive Order No. 839] because there is another pending increase coming from the international market next month," LPG Marketers Association (LPGMA) president Arnel Ty said in a phone interview.

Although it was still too early to determine the exact increase for next month, Ty said his group was expecting the international contract price of LPG

RETAILERS, A12

Oil firms, Palace in standoff

By Amando Doronila

THE BLACK GOLD EMPIRE HAS struck with merciless retaliation in a face-off with Malacañang over Executive Order No. 839 that puts a lid on spiraling prices of petroleum products, which are critical to the rehabilitation of areas in Luzon devastated by storms.

ANALYSIS

There is little sign which side will blink first while the public is being squeezed in a standoff that has resulted in fuel supply at gas stations beginning to run low.

In retaliation for the imposition of EO 839, an emergency measure that followed the declaration by President Macapagal-Arroyo of a state of calamity in Luzon, a number of retail pumping stations started at the weekend to cut service hours.

OIL FIRMS, A11

Dominoes to mark fall of wall

A ROW OF 1,000 plastic dominoes mounted near Brandenburg Gate will be toppled in Monday's ceremonies.

BERLIN—MASSIVE COLORful dominoes painted by German students have been placed along the former path of the Berlin Wall to mark the 20th anniversary of the opening of the barrier that divided the city and the country for nearly three decades.

Many of the upright 2.3-meter-high (7.5-foot-high) plastic foam dominoes car-

DOMINOES, A17

Hillary to lobby for VFA–Miriam

Christine O. Avendaño

THE PHILIPPINES' MOST OUTspoken senator yesterday said she believed US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was coming to Manila because of concerns over calls to scrap the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), and warned against US pressure on President Macapagal-Arroyo to stick to the accord.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago also said Ms Arroyo was aware that junking the VFA would bode ill for the Philippines as the United States might retaliate by trimming or withdrawing US military assistance and lowering trade quotas.

Clinton is scheduled to visit Manila on Nov. 12-13 before joining US President Barack Obama at a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum to be held in Singapore in the next two days.

Concerns over the activities of visiting US troops in the

HILLARY, A13

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONT PAGE

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CHRISTMAS COMES TO MOA The Mall of Asia in Pasay City held the ceremonial lighting of its 58-foot Christmas tree on Saturday heralding the start of the holiday shopping season.

Joker: Ask Hillary about rights rap

By Christine O. Avendaño in Manila and Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

ANGERED BY A BILL IN THE UNITED STATES Congress seeking to strip the Philippines of $2 million in US military assistance due purportedly to the country's dismal human rights record, Sen. Joker Arroyo warn the issue taken up by Filipino officials during the two-day visit to Manila this week of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

"We should ask her (Clinton) directly, why is it that you're removing the military assistance that is not even a big amount?—because you say that the Philippines is a human rights violator," Arroyo said in an interview over DZRH radio.

Arroyo said America had a worse human rights record than the Philippines.

"If you look at yourselves in the mirror, you will see that you are even a worse violator, because it's a state policy sanctioned by the (US) government," he said.

Arroyo said that in the case of the Philippines, it was possible that human rights violations were being committed by members of the military and the police but that was not a state policy.

Clinton is due to due country on Friday. She has said that her visit had to do with America showing its solidarity with Filipinos who were badly battered by recent calamities.

Guantanamo Bay

Arroyo pointed out that the US government maintained a detention facility for foreign detainees in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"For accused of the detention facility was built outside the US "so that they can torture and keep prisoners" there and US laws did not apply there.

And even if US President Barack Obama wanted Guantanamo Bay to be shut down, Arroyo said this would not be done because the US military opposed such a move.

Noting that he had been in the human rights movement for a long time now, Arroyo said the US had no right to criticize the Philippines.

"Other countries can lecture us, not the Americans," he said.

In response to Arroyo's stance, human rights groups are lobbying against the release of US military aid until cases of human rights abuses in the country are resolved.

Other side of coin

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said in Baguio City on Saturday that aside from military aid, the groups also called on the US government to stop releasing official development assistance.

Casiño said they hoped Raymond Palmer, deputy director of the US state department's Office of Maritime Southeast Asian Affairs, would honor his word that US military aid would not be released until the issue on human rights abuses in the country was resolved.

Casiño said they had yet to receive an official statement from the state department stipulating the non-release of the aid.

"But there is no need for a black and white: we take the information at face value. The information was from an official who was knowledgeable of the US Congress. The fact that the aid was withheld, it should send a message to the government that it should address the rights abuses in the country," he said.

American legislators have expressed concerns about perpetrated reports of human rights violations by the Philippine military and police.

At Fort Del Pilar, Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro said there was no need for the government to lobby to get the aid.

'They know us'

"We don't need to lobby. The US government knows our engagements. We work closely with the US Armed Forces... They judge our performance, they know our performance," he said in a press forum on Saturday.

Teodoro, who was a guest in the 111th foundation anniversary of the Philippine Military Academy, said US military aid had different aspects, one of which was for military capacity-building and another for counterterrorism efforts.

The recent disasters, he said, the military had been engaged in humanitarian work, particularly in relief and rehabilitation efforts in areas hit by recent calamities.

Remove trash dumped by Marikina river, execs urged

By Alexis Papa

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS have called on the Marikina city government to clean up the Nangka riverside of garbage and debris from Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

In a statement issued yesterday, EcoWaste Coalition said the dumping on the riverside was not only a violation of the country's environmental laws, it would eventually choke the river.

The group said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) overlooked the riverside dumping in an Oct. 26 report.

"Findings revealed that the natural flow of the Nangka River is now impaired due to unscreened mud and construction debris which obstruct the free flow of water downstream," said Roberto Sheen, officer in charge of the DENR-National Capital Region (NCR).

The report prepared by Raymond Jose and Irilgardis Balcidaro of the DENR-NCR, recommended that the Marikina city government "immediately institute mitigating measures towards the removal of the heavy debris which obstruct the free flow of the Nangka River."

A 50-meter portion of the Nangka River has been reclaimed to three meters, the DENR report said, because of the mud and debris dumped on the Marikina side of the river.

"The decision to dump the mud and debris on the side of the river was "made by the higher authorities of the city as well as the chief of the MMDA (Metropolitan Manila Development Authority)," in order to clear Bakakeng Street, a Barangay Nangka official told DENR investigators, according to the report.

A dike of mud 50 meters long and three meters high has risen along Bakakeng Street beside the river.

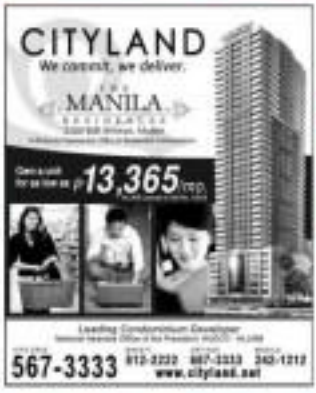
"Based on the above findings, it is feared that if the dumping of mud along the riverside will continue and if the dike of mud will not be removed in the succeeding rainy season, it will eventually go to the river, especially during rainy days, resulting in obstruction of the free flow of water downstream," the DENR report said.

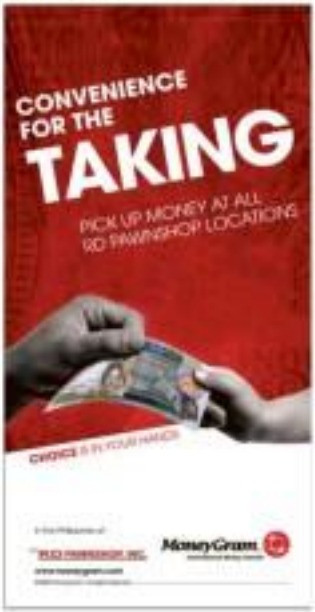
"Marikina Mayor (Marides) Fernando and MMDA Chair (Bayani) Fernando should act swiftly to rid the Nangka River of dumped mud and trash. Protecting our rivers is an essential mitigation that has to be pursued amid threats of more frequent and intense weather events due to climate change," said Beau Baconguis, Ecowaste Southeast Asia Toxics campaigner.

Manny Calonzo, president of SinaMaar Coalition, hailed the DENR report on a "victory for Mother Earth which could not have happened if not for the vigilance and perseverance of Bakhid Eco and the community residents to assert their right to a safe environment."

On Oct. 12, Bakhid Eco, SinaMaar Coalition, Greenpeace and 23 other groups sent a letter-complaint to Environment Secretary Lito Atienza, Mayor Fernando and Barangay Nangka Chair Philip Dayata demanding the clearing of debris and trash into the Nangka River and asking the officials to clean it up. They said dumping sometimes violates several laws of the Clean Water Act and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

They put up banners urging the government to stop the dumping and to protect the river.





3 parties wooing me, says Miriam

IT LOOKS LIKE POLITICAL PARTIES WILL end up supporting common candidates in next year's senatorial race.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday said political parties were choosing their senatorial candidates based on how they fare in the surveys.

"They can see who is trending in the surveys so, naturally they would approach them," she told dzRB radio.

Santiago said she has been asked to join the senatorial slate of three different parties—President Macapagal-Arroyo's Lakas-Kampi-CMD, former President Joseph Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino, and Sen. Manuel Villar Jr.'s Nacionalista Party.

Surveys, the senator said, have become the "total emotional phenomenon" in the country.

Political parties have dispensed with consultations in selecting their candidates and have instead used surveys as their guide, Santiago said.

"Surveys are also responsible for the fact that parties don't want to get newcomers who do not rate high in surveys," she said.

So who would get her presidential vote?

Santiago said she had not made up her mind and was willing to run as a common candidate of all three parties. She said then she "will support and work with any president-bet who will throw me qualified."

She also said she had proven her loyalty to all the presidents she had served in the past.

Christine O. Avendaño

'Edu' said to be LP Senate candidate

MOVIE ACTOR AND FORMER OFFICIAL Media Board (OMB) chair Edu Manzano is being eyed for a slot in the Liberal Party senatorial slate, LP campaign manager Butch Abad said yesterday.

"Yes, we are talking, and it's looking very good," Abad said in a phone interview, confirming reports the LP had invited Manzano to join its ticket.

But Manzano sources in the LP said Manzano "was already in, it's just a matter of his nailing in formalities for membership," said the source, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak for the party.

It was earlier reported that Manzano was being eyed by the Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition to be the running mate of administration presidential candidate Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro.

But Abad said Manzano would be making a "very risky move" if he decides to run with Teodoro, who has been at the bottom of presidential surveys since early this year.

Manzano was earlier reported to be running under the Puwersa ng Masa headed by ex-President Joseph Estrada and his running mate, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

Jo Zamora

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Transport police legal under Charter, says DOJ

By Norman Bordadora

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice sees nothing unconstitutional in the scope of the powers and functions of the proposed Philippine Transportation Security Authority (PTSA) that will oversee security at ports, airports, roads and rail systems.

In a legal opinion, having Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera said the PTSA may be given law enforcement powers to implement a comprehensive security program meant to prevent terrorism and economic sabotage.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza sought the clarification and reassurance that the law he faithfully executed" as provided for Section 17, Article Seven of the 1987 Constitution," she said.

Devanadera said that on the basis of this position of the Department, a bill having an attached agency of the Department of Transportation and Communications, could be given enforcement powers.

The PTSA's powers are in the implementation of the security system meant to address terrorism, economic sabotage and other forms of illegal activities "that breach the integrity and security of all modes of international and national transportation systems."

Devanadera, however, said the favorable opinion was based on the understanding that the PTSA shall only exercise operational control and supervision over all units of law enforcement agencies and personnel in public transportation systems.

Based on documents submitted to the DOJ, Devanadera said it was their understanding that the PTSA should be engaged in a specialized task of implementing a comprehensive transportation security system and not in the broader task of maintaining peace and order in the community.

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consideration of the DOJ's legal opinion on Aug. 13, 2009, that expressed reservations about the constitutionality of the House bill creating the PTSA.

"The true police force" under Section 6, article 16 of the Constitution only means to correct the previous situation of the Philippine Constabulary and integrated National Police where there were two police forces.

The PC was national in scope and military in character while the INP was local in scope and civilian in character.

"Aptly, in (the transportation security) enactment, other agencies of the executive branch of the government may exercise law enforcement functions in order to carry out their specialized functions," Devanadera said.

"The exercise by these agencies of law enforcement functions has its basis in the power of the President to 'ensure that the laws be

Storms slowed anti-insurgency drive—Teodoro

THE SPATE OF KILLER TYPHOONS THAT HIT the country recently have kept government troops busy, thus hampering the Armed Forces of the Philippines' anti-insurgency operations, Military officials, however, remain optimistic they would crush the communist insurgency by 2010 as ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. has admitted that because of the enormous disaster response by soldiers, the military's internal security operations, especially in Luzon, have been temporarily put on "active defense mode."

"Our anti-insurgency campaign, admittedly, was slowed down. [but] we have to sacrifice one for the other... what is important is we are saving communities [lastly hit by the typhoons]," Teodoro told reporters.

Three consecutive storms buffeted the country last month, causing mudslides, burying entire villages in mud, and leaving towns submerged in floodwaters.

The three storms—"Ondoy," "Pepeng," "Santi"—killed more than 800 people across Luzon and left hundreds of thousands homeless.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Victor Ibrado yesterday said that since Pepeng hit northern Luzon last month, operations against communist insurgents in the area had virtually stopped.

As for the extent of the effects of the tropical storms on the military's schedule to crush insurgency, Ibrado said he could not say.

"But definitely our operations [have been] affected because our troops who should operate are the ones who continuously respond to the needs of calamity victims," he said.

"We are not saying that we can totally wipe out the insurgency but we are confident that we will be able to significantly reduce the problem by next year," he said.

President Arroyo has given the military until 2010 when her term as commander-in-chief ends to defeat the decades-old communist insurgency in the country.

Teodoro, who has been chosen as the administration party's standard-bearer in the 2010 elections, pointed out that for the past 45 days, major government agencies had been too engaged trying to help victims in the problems of calamity victims.

"I hope this would prove to our countrymen that the government is working for them, that there's only one way but to support the government, and that this may discourage others from bringing down the government," he said. Jocelyn R. Uy

'Gibo' bids goodbye

FORT GEN. FELIX Brgdo City—Good-bye defense department, hello politics.

Defense Secretary Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro bade goodbye to officials and soldiers of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) here on Saturday as he prepared for his presidential candidacy in 2010.

"First week is my last week [as the Department of National Defense] ... Second, this is my last attendance as your Commander during an graduation ceremony," Teodoro said in his speech during the 111th founding anniversary of the PMA at Fort Gen. Felix Brgdo.

He also talked about efforts under his leadership to institutionalize reforms in the military in the last three years and he thanked the officials and cadets for their support.

As standard-bearer of the administration party Lakas-Kampi-CMD party, Teodoro said he had not yet chosen his running mate.

He also said that since he declared his presidential bid, he had not talked to his senile, business rival Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. on matters running to politics.

Cojuangco is chairperson of the Nacionalista People's Coalition (NPC), which has yet to find its own presidential candidate after its presumptive standard-bearer, Sen. Francis Escudero, quit the party.

"This is beyond personality. I stand for the Lakas party," Teodoro said in a press forum later. Beatrice Cellars, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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Workers seek probe of flu-testing machine deal

By Jerome Aning

A LABOR GROUP PUSHING FOR increased protection for workers against the influenza A(H1N1) virus has urged the Ombudsman to investigate the awarding recently by the Department of Health (DOH) of a contract to supply influenza-testing machines to a foreign-owned firm.

The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) said the contract was awarded to Roche (Philippines) Inc., which is 99.9-percent owned by Swiss nationals, to violation of the country's procurement laws allowing only entities that are 60-percent Filipino-owned to bid or goods in the government.

The TUCP also said Roche's price was nearly 25 percent higher than the lowest bidder.

"We are dumbfounded at the brazenness by which the DOH carried out the supposed open and competitive public bidding for the machines, only to later negotiate with the losing bidder that was not even eligible to supply goods to the government," TUCP secretary general Ernesto Herrera said in a statement.

The bicouse tried to get a comment from Roche's Makati office but no one took the calls at the corporate affairs department.

According to Herrera, the TUCP had supported "in principle" the health department's decision to acquire the machines.

"However, we must stress that we do not want the measure passed by the A(H1N1) virus to be used as a pretext to circumvent existing procurement rules meant to ensure transparency and fairness, discourage multitasseure and safeguard public funds," he said.

The DOH recently conducted a public bidding for three Real-Time PCR Machines. The TUCP said Macias, a wholly-Filipino-owned firm, offered the lowest price at P3.4 million per unit while Roche offered the same items price at P5.995 million per unit.

Herrera said the DOH awarded the contract to Roche, although the firm is entirely foreign-owned based on records filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Roche also provided free machines, instead of the original contract for three.

The labor leader pointed out that under the implementing rules and regulations of Republic Act No. 9184, or the Government Procurement Reform Act of 2003, only those "duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and which at least 60 percent of the outstanding capital stocks belong to citizens of the Philippines, shall be eligible to participate in the bidding of supply of goods."

Herrera, citing statistics from the Pasteurs Center for Disease Prevention and Control based in Stockholm, Sweden, said that as of Nov. 1, at least 6,394 people had been killed by the A(H1N1) virus worldwide.

The top five countries with the most fatalities are Brazil, 1,346; United States, 1,084; Argentina, 593; India, 478; and Mexico, 397.

In Southeast Asia, the top five countries with the most deaths are Thailand, 184; Malaysia, 77; South Korea, 45; the Philippines, 30; and Singapore, 18.

Herrera said that before the DOH decided to acquire the four machines, only four laboratories in the country had been performing the A(H1N1) tests: The DOH's Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Muntinlupa City, The Medical City in Pasig City, Lung Center of the Philippines in Quezon City and Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center in Cebu City.

All four laboratories are using the Qiagen Rotor Gene Q Real-Time PCR Machine donated by Macaro and none of them are using or have used Roche's Light Cycler 480 Real-Time PCR Machine, he said.

Prosecutor charged in sex case

ACTING JUSTICE SECRETARY AGNES Devanadera has revoked the appointment of a Cavite provincial prosecutor after a sexual molestation case was filed against him by the complainant in a convenience store.

Assistant Provincial Prosecutor Emmanuel Rivera is under investigation for sexual molestation after he allegedly tried to have him, still on the complainant in his office in Cavite.

In her affidavit, the complainant, whose identity is being withheld by the bicouse because of the nature of the complaint, said Rivera played with himself in front of her after she refused his sexual advances.

"[Rivera's] detail to (the) City Prosecutor of Cavite City, is hereby revoked. This order takes effect immediately and shall remain in force until further orders," said Devanadera in the order dated Oct. 28.

An administrative case was filed by Cavite Provincial Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco against Rivera in the Department of Justice in behalf of the complainant.

Court records showed the complainant went to the Cavite prosecutor's office in Bacoor for an inquest hearing in the misdemeanor case she had filed against her husband. Rivera was the inquest prosecutor.

The complainant said Rivera began sending her text messages, at one point asking for a photo of herself.

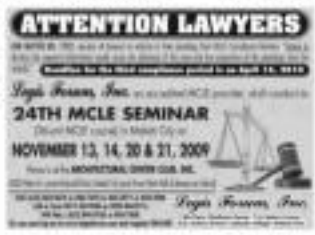
She admitted replying to Rivera but only because she was following up her case against her husband.

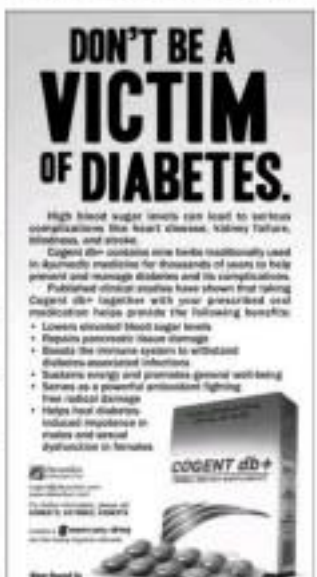
The complainant said that during the course of their communication, Rivera told her Velasco did not want to proceed with the cases/charges (as to case).

Velasco has denied this, saying the case had pro-ce be resolved.

Rivera allegedly told the complainant he had an idea that would get the cases/charges dismissed.

On June 8, he allegedly asked the complainant to a meeting at his office. Thinking the topic would be her case, the complainant said she went. Norman Bordadora





Mar: I'd have married sooner

By Aristotle Rapal
Inquirer General Latest

SAN JOSE CITY— "MAGANDA ANG LUGAR dito kung, siyempre sana ako nagsabi[d] [b]ata pa. Had I known, I would have gotten married a long time ago," said a smiling Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II, the vice presidential candidate of the Liberal Party, when asked about his marriage to television host Korina Sanchez.

Roxas arrived here Saturday a day after he and his wife returned from their honeymoon in Japan, to address a rally of Nissy Brazer, a multisectoral group supporting the Noynoy Aquino-Mar Roxas tandem.

Turning serious, Roxas told about 1,200 people at the Knights of Columbus clubhouse here that the 2010 elections was not just an exercise in nostalgia but a "marriage for a hopeful and a more beautiful future."

"We need a leader who will hand us to achieve that will translate to us in real terms our dream for a better life. Better education, better health, cheap medicines, and good and honest government," Roxas said in Filipino.

He vouched for Aquino's integrity and spoke in large part about what the son of the late President Corazon Aquino can do for the country.

Roxas, who stopped short of saying what they should be for (unless in he elected as it was not yet the campaign period), said the people can expect to be rewarded should they decide "to get married in the future with a man that is honest and cares for the welfare of the country and people."

Aquino failed to attend the rally due to a bout with[illegible].

In Palayan City, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, the standard bearer of the administration's Lakas-CMD-Kampi party, described as his audience the main of the next leader of the country.

"He should not only have the opportunity to serve but he must be a deserving leader who has good foresight," Teodoro said in his speech during the launch of the "Unang Sigaw Partido ng Pagbabago," a local party headed by Gov. Aurelio Umali.

Teodoro said the country must now be bid toward becoming a leader in Asia.

He said the country's stabilization, conservation and industry, social welfare, health, education and other concerns should be addressed by the next leader.

"In the face of big problems, what is needed is a deserving leader who must be given an opportunity to lead and serve," he said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, November 9, 2009
Dedication of St. John Lateran

1st Reading:	Ezk 47:1-2, 8-9, 12
2nd Reading:	1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17
Gospel:	Jn 2:13-22

At the Passover of the Jews was at hand, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the Temple court he found men selling oxen, sheep and doves, and money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the Temple court, together with the oxen and sheep; he scattered over the tables of the money-changers, scattering the coins, and ordered the people selling doves, "Take all this away and stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!"

His disciples recalled the words of Scripture: Zeal for your House devours me as a fire. The Jews then questioned Jesus, "What sign do you show us to justify your driving the traders out?" Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then replied, "The building of this temple has already taken forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" Actually, Jesus was referring to the temple of his body. Only when he had risen from the dead did his disciples remember these words; then they believed both the Scripture and the words Jesus had spoken.

Commentary:

After Catholics think of St. Peter's as the pope's main church. But they are wrong. St. John Lateran is the cathedral of the Diocese of Rome, where the bishop of Rome presides. The first basilica on the site was built in the fourth century, when Constantine donated land; its bad received from the Laterani family. That structure suffered fire and the ravages of time; but the Lateran remained the church where popes were consecrated, until they returned from Avignon in the 14th century to find the church and the adjoining palace in ruins.

Pope Innocent X commissioned the present structure in 1646. One of Rome's four imperial churches, St. John Lateran's towering facade is crowned with fifteen colossal statues of Christ, John the Baptist, John the Evangelist and doctors of the Church. Beneath its high altar rest the remains of the small wooden table on which, tradition holds, St. Peter celebrated Mass. St. John Lateran is, in a sense, the papal church of all Catholics, for it is the cathedral church of the cathedral church of the Bishop of Rome. This church is the one from which all others[illegible]

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Pag-Ibig calamity loans total P9.3B

By Jerome Aning

THE HOME DEVELOPMENT Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig) has disbursed a record P9.3 billion in calamity loans to more than 600,000 members in Metro Manila as well as northern, southern and Central Luzon, Vice President Nok de Castro said yesterday.

De Castro, chair of the Pag-Ibig board of trustees, said more than two-thirds, or 70 percent, of members who availed themselves of loans were from the National Capital Region. The rest were from Luzon.

"We expect the disbursements to reach P10 billion by the end of December this year, the highest in the fund's 29-year history. Pag-Ibig by far is the biggest calamity loan provider in the country," De Castro said in a statement.

Targeted Storm "Ondoy" (Pepeng)," "Ramil" and "Santi" wrought utter devastation to Luzon over the last two months, killing hundreds and damaging property.

De Castro said 3,103 members had availed themselves of a 24-month amortization on their amortizations, collectively worth P60.1 million. Pag-Ibig has received 589 applications for insurance claims filed by affected member-borrowers.

Pag-Ibig is overdreaming with the insurance companies to ensure the immediate resolution of the claims, De Castro said.

Heeding the clamor of its members, he said the Pag-Ibig board approved last week amendments to the fund's short-term loan programs for multi-purpose and calamity loans that would take effect in January 2010.

"We listened to the insistent demand of our members to treat the calamity loan as a separate and distinct loan from the multi-purpose loan (MPL). This means that the proceeds of their calamity loans next year would no longer be deducted from their MPL, hence they would get a bigger amount," De Castro said.

James Feldman, Pag-Ibig chief executive officer, said members could still avail themselves of MPL even if they have outstanding calamity loans and vice versa.

He said members in Metro Manila can call the 9520GF Call Center at 724-4244 or visit the nearest branch. They may also visit www.pagibigfund.gov.ph for updates on Pag-Ibig programs.

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OUTSTANDING EXECUTIVE
Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza I. Cabral (center) receives a Most Outstanding Public Servant award from Women for Women (WFW) Foundation, Philippines, which cited her for the recognition she has received from local and international groups for her management of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. WFW members, from left, are Bing Carrion Black, Evelyn Singson, president Sylvia Lopez Alejandro and Beth Lopez.

RP to host Asean immigration meet

THE PHILIPPINES WILL HOST this month a three-day summit of immigration chiefs and consular service heads of Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan said topics on regional cooperation and information sharing would dominate the 12th Asean Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Division of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Asean Immigration Intelligence Forum which will be held at the New World Hotel in Makati City on Nov. 16-18.

Among the specific issues to be discussed are border management, antiterrorism, the campaign against transnational crimes, human development, emergency assistance programs during regional disasters, and exchange of information on immigration matters.

"The conference will give us the golden opportunity to showcase the reforms we have initiated in the bureau like the adoption of new machine-readable passports to fighting transnational crimes, the job-generating visa, and other measures aimed at strengthening our border security," Libanan said in a statement.

This is the second time the Philippines will host the event. The first time was in 2000. Last year's meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Lawyer Piero Balato Jr., designated spokesperson of the annual meeting, said that aside from Asean delegates, officials from other non-Asean countries, such as Australia, would be attending the affair.

Balato said this year's meeting will review the progress of previous agreements and discussions in last year's forum. Jerome Aning

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OFWs protest proposed Macau tax

By Jerome Aning

MIGRANT WORKER groups in Macau yesterday said they would continue their campaign against a bill imposing taxes on the employment of foreign domestic helpers and a six-month country ban on foreign workers who procreate their contracts.

The Macau Legislative Assembly had said the bill published in the Legislative Assembly Bulletin on Oct. 27 will restrict "major anti-migrant provisions." They scored Macau Secretary for Economy and Finance Francis Tam for not fulfilling promises to address concerns about the bill raised earlier by the migrant labor sector.

No option

Three development loans are open for the migrant workers and advocates last to investigate the campaign against the bill, including representatives from the International Labor Organization, United Nations Committee on Rights of Migrants, MMSO spokesperson Ma. Rosa Vilosa said in a statement from Macau.

The MMSO includes seventeen Philippine worker (OFW) groups such as Filipino Migrant Mercantile Filipinos Inc. Society of the Blessed Chapel, Migrants Ministry, Guardians Mission and Jesus is Lord Movement Macau.

Reentry ban

Vilosa said while the six-month reentry ban allows migrant workers to terminate their contracts as long as they give a justified reason, this "is another vague and the burden of proof might be solely on the migrant workers."

The country ban also may violate the "right to abroad workers and those who employ them, respectively, she said.

MMSO said Tam rejected appeals to exempt employers of foreign domestic workers, majority of whom are Filipinos, from paying a tax on the hiring or deploying of foreign maids in the Chinese territory.

The restrictive said Tam also did not honor a promise to include regulations on the practices of placement agencies in the bill.

"A lot of these agencies charge exorbitant placement fees, confiscate identity documents especially of domestic workers, some even engage in illegal recruitment practices," Vilosa said.

She said there was also a provision for mandatory registry for medical check-ups of recruitment workers, but who will shoulder the cost was not stated in the bill.

Advocacy work

Unless vetoed or withdrawn the new bill would become law in the last week of April 2011, giving "enough time" for migrant workers and their advocates to campaign against it, MMSO said.

More protest actions and advocacy work are to be made and there a zero possibility of challenging the new law in a judicial review," Vilosa said.

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100 OFWs in Qatar jail want to be home for Christmas

By Jaymee Reing

ABOUT 100 OFWs, most Filipino workers languishing in a detention jail in Doha, Qatar, now want the Philippine government to do what they could to bring them home for Christmas.

"They wanted to gather to convey the bleak, pathetic and damaged to get out of their cells," Montenegro said. He added that the fire was put out and no one was hurt.

"If not for our swift and collective action, we would have been blamed after," Montenegro quoted Nelly, a domestic helper who was away from an abusive employer, as saying.

Nelly was finally repatriated last week but she told Filipinos that there were about 100 more Filipinos at the detention center.

Montenegro said he had the names of 32 of the detainees and their case numbers. He asked the Philippine Embassy in Qatar, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office to look into the Filipinos' plight.

"We already sent an official letter asking about the status of the cases of the 32 OFWs and the others who were stranded in the embassy and urged its staff to fast-track the resolution of the cases so that they could be sent home and spend Christmas with their loved ones," Montenegro said.

He said many of the detainees had been held at the deportation center from three to six months.

"Just like in other deportation centers, our fellow OFWs stranded in the Doha deportation center have been neglected. They have not been visited and no assistance and welfare services have been given to them while inside the deportation centers even after the fire broke out," Montenegro said.

He said that one of the detained workers was about six months pregnant, prompting concerns from fellow OFWs because of her "volatile" condition.

Another group advocating migrant workers' welfare has asked the Department of Foreign Affairs to look for the release of an OFW charged with possession of illegal drugs who has been "interrogating" in a Saudi jail.

The Rev. Fr. Clyde Pelley, Caritas said the OFW, Jason Oriola, went to the center asking for legal assistance because he had been jailed for one year and three months on a drug-related charge without a court ruling on his case.

The women's group director, Susan Ople, said the 26-year-old OFW was arrested after a package sent from the Philippines to his name was found to contain illegal drugs.

Sison is seeking legal help because he has been serving a sentence that has yet to be handed down since the judge has yet to rule on his case. He has appeared before the court four times without a lawyer because he does not "for sure," Ople said, have the money to pay

Boracay cops in training

KALIBO, Aklan—Around 50 policemen from the island resort of Boracay and Aklan province will undergo a till-graduation capsule-type, armed special training on criminal investigation.

The five-week training from Nov. 9 to Dec. 18 will involve units of the Aklan Provincial Police Office (APPO), and Senior Supt. Epifanio Braguis Jr., Aklan police director.

Braguis said the training was part of a program of the till Department of Justice-International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program and the PNP's Integrated Transformation Program.

Chief Supt. Isagani Cuevas, Western Visayas police director said the police units of Kalibo and Boracay were among the "11 Most Perfect Stations" of the PNP.

The policemen will undergo courses on narrative investigation, crime scene photography, technical writing and public speaking, human rights, executive development and leadership, and restorative justice and juvenile justice, Senior Supt. Benjie P. Borrgue Jr., Kapulong Thayer

Retailers threaten to stop LPG sale

From page A1

to increase by P30 to P40 per metric ton in December due largely to a surge in demand during Christmas.

"If the EO is still in place, we may have a problem because we business would want to sell at a loss. The risk then is in being forced not to sell LPG products so as not to incur huge losses," Ty said.

But EO 839 has frozen prices of petroleum products in Luzon at their Dec. 15 levels due to the devastation wrought by storms in a large swath of the country's main island.

At the Oct. 15 levels, prices of an 11-kilogram LPG tank should be between P930 and P988.

Ty said member companies had been supporting the implementation of the executive order since last month, even if LPG's international contract price rose by $75 to $860 per MT in November, compared with the previous month's level.

"We admit that we have moved our price upward, but prices this month is revenue protected losses, if any.

Amendments to oil law

In the House of Representatives, lawmakers are working amendments to the Oil Deregulation Law that would give the Department of Energy more powers in each successive profits by the downstream oil firms.

"This is our constitutional duty. The committee on energy chaired by Rep. Mikey Maranguit-Arroyo and the House ways and means panel led by Rep. Emmylou Javier are on top of these things and we have been in constant consultations even during the break," said Speaker Prospero Nograles.

Congress will resume its session today after a three-week break with the P1.54-trillion national budget for 2010 on the top of its agenda.

The House has stood behind the President's decision to freeze oil prices despite warnings of supply shortfalls from big business.

Bukidnon Rep. Jocelyn Nicolas, a vice chair of the House committee on trade and industry, said oil companies showed how insensitive they were by contesting EO 839 in court (Shell filed a case last week).

'Firms after profit'

"The government has always stressed to oil companies that the oil price cap is only temporary while the state of calamity has not yet been totally lifted. It was made for the public good. It has become clearer now that some oil firms are only after their own interests and profits," Nicolas said.

With the Palace refusing to be intimidated by the Big 3 players that plan to contest the price controls in court, Nograles has ordered the consolidation of eight bills seeking to amend the public Act No. 8479, or the "Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act."

Nograles said members of the bills should coordinate with each other to come up with a consensus proposal that would spur more competition among retail gas stations while giving the energy department more powers to crack down on abuses.

Aside from petroleum retailing, Nograles said Congress would step up the approval of measures encouraging the development of indigenous energy sources and the lowering of electricity cost.

Petron to open books

Petron Corp., yesterday urged the joint task force of the energy and justice departments to examine its books to determine whether the company was making unclear profits by overpricing oil-based products.

"Petron has always adhered to transparency and fairness in the pricing of its petroleum products. We have always maintained that as a publicly listed company, our quarterly financial and operating records are open and can be scrutinized by anyone. We have 100,000 shareholders who can attest to this," said Petron president Ricardo Nicolas in a statement.

Reuters said there were many groups and personalities riding on the oil price bandwagon and causing confusion and undue expectations among the public.

"We hope that they (the task force) are on this matter immediately," he added.

Petron had said that it was in fact expecting a loss of P1.5 billion vs the fourth quarter of 2008 due to the implementation of EO 839.

"This loss could be even higher if international oil prices rise beyond forecast levels," Reuters said.

He said the company had fully cooperated with the government and had participated in various dialogues with the National Economic and Development Authority, Congress, and energy department on oil pricing.

In the first half of 2009, when international prices hit all-time highs, Petron fully cooperated with the energy department when it conducted an independent audit to ascertain whether local prices were reasonable, he said. With reports from Bill C. Cabacungan Jr.

Oil firms, Palace in standoff

From page A1

Blaming the Palace for the reduced supply, oil companies claimed that they found it difficult to meet demand "since you are being directed to sell your products at a loss."

Populist decision

Mr. Arroyo, in a populist decision intended to defuse public unrest over oil price increases, directed on Oct. 23 the rollback of fuel prices to their Oct. 15 levels.

The climax of oil companies that they were incurring losses is highly contentious and hard to verify because they have refused government auditors access to their books.

Some oil companies, including Petron and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., said they were operating normally but were feeling the pressure of supply shortage.

Restricting supply

The oil companies noted a sudden increase in demand for their products, reportedly when other players temporarily stopped operations as they waited for the next batch of deliveries. This suggested that the oil companies were restricting supply.

Aside from these methods intended to send the administration in to a tizzy, they appealed to the President to have a dialogue with them for the lifting of the price cap.

The oil firms opened a new front against Malacañang on Friday. They filed an urgent petition with the Makati Regional Trial Court for the lifting of EO 839. The court action followed a brinkmanship between the government and the oil companies earlier.

Representatives of oil firms and related businesses also signed a petition published in full-page advertisements that was couched in insulting language that could only have offended the President, who has used the conflict to play the public interest card and to rouse public anger to the oil companies.

Insulting

The ad's insulting passage read: "We know that everyone wants low prices and this is a popular move but now that you have always said that your objective is not to be popular but to do what is good or right for the country."

Malacañang not only rejected the petition but also said that the court was only the first step in the lifting of the state of calamity. It dangled the offer that the order may be lifted in certain areas.

The presidential spokesperson said Ms Arroyo was open to a dialogue, but the oil firms were diabolically referred to a task force formed to resolve such petitions.

In its court petition, Shell and Ms Arroyo unilaterally determined the existence of exceptional circumstances warranting the direction of the oil firms—a move that the first cousined was in contravention of the Constitution.

International reputation

Shell raised serious concerns about the grave and irreparable injury that EO 839 would cause not only on business and the larger economy but also on the international reputation of the Philippines.

Shell warned that the executive order may logically result in shortages, rationing of petroleum products and the development of a black market for oil products in the country.

Maintaining retained unfazed by the threats, reasoning that the oil price freeze would continue unless stopped by the courts.

The administration said it was not roused by the effort to browbeat it through the newspaper advertisement and the courts.

Counterproductive

The threats have counterproductive effects in relation to the administration's success. They forced the Palace and handed it a populist issue to which it can turn public anger on the oil companies.

The administration said: "Maintaining is standing by what is for the good of the greatest number of our people. These oil companies should listen to the sentiments of the people."

LRT allots 'green zones' for bikers

From page A1

passing certain conditions: The bikes must be of the "foldable" model and a maximum of only four bikes would be allowed per train.

To welcome the DOTC "Bike on Bike all" (Bike 02)" project, about 30 enthusiasts from cycling and outdoor clubs took the inaugural ride on Line 1, starting their ride at the Arroyo Center station in Cubao, Quezon City and getting off at the Legarda station in Manila.

The bikers were led by Sec. Pia Cayetano (an avid cyclist) and LRT Administrator Melquiades Robles. Also present during the launch were Undersecretary Secretary Lito Adaza.

The riders also included the leisure experts and members of Firefly Brigade, Outlook Project Foundation, T'klop Bakery and UP Mountaineers.

The distance to Legarda was took about 15 minutes. On a bike, the 6.5-km stretch would normally take 30 minutes.

'Hybrid lifestyle'

Upon disembarking at the Legarda station, the bikers unfolded their two-wheelers and pedaled their way down the next 5 km going to Luneta Park.

"This is what I call a hybrid lifestyle. Bike 02" is an invitation for a change in our lifestyle," said Robles, who considers himself a "newbie" in cycling.

Robles expressed hope that the project would be a hit especially among the youth.

Cayetano, who had led cycling tours to gather public support for the project, said she noticed "more start taking the "green" concepts herself, with her foldable bike on hand, as part of her everyday commute to the Senate.

Cayetano said she also planned to buy foldable bikes for members of her staff, who are transposed of mobilizers and committee cyclists like her.

Bikers' passion

"I admire the unceasing, selfless passion of bikers. They have always paved the road for projects like this," the senator said.

Cayetano said she looked forward to the day when one can just "take a bike going to theatre" by getting on and off mass transit systems.

Long-distance bikers have long enjoyed such convenience in countries like Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, United States and in the European Union.

"The Clean Air Act is a beautiful law but unless enforced, it becomes a useless statement," Robles said. "This is a small but very meaningful step (in fulfilling the law's objectives)."

"The bicycle—one of the most glorious inventions ever—offers one of the most obvious solutions to society's problems," said Ruby Pineda, president of the Firefly Brigade, a group of bikers behind the colorful "line of the Fireflies" that draws up to 8,000 bikers each year in Metro Manila.

For evaluation

The Bike 02 project will undergo an evaluation by the cycling groups and the LRT administration after three weeks, according to Pineda.

Ma Bethia, also of the Firefly Brigade, cited the increasing "pressure on Asian countries to step up on their climate-integration measures."

The complete set of guidelines for bikers taking the LRT can be found at www.dotc.gov.ph.

The two LRT lines service an average of about 750,000 passengers daily. Line 1, which has 20 stations along its 14.5-km stretch, offers a maximum carrying capacity of 1.1 million. Line 2 can move 300,000 people daily through 11 stations along its 11.8-km track.

CITIBANK, N.A. recently signed the services healthcare agreement with MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC. (Seated L-R) MEDICard's Dr. Nicky E. Manlapaz (Medical Director) and Dr. Maxima E. Mendoza (President) with Citibank's Anna L. Yuen (VP, Country Human Resources Manager) and Rowena P. Dulalia (VP, TCH Human Resources Head). (Standing L-R) Citibank's Atty. Cristina L. Hechica (VP, Country Employee Relations Officer), MEDICard's Jon de Guzman (Head-Account Management Group), Citibank's Philip P. Mamaclay (AVP, Human Resources Generalist), Carmina de Ramos Cruz's Pia K. Reyes (Managing Director) and Citibank's Tommy G. Bonoan (VP, Country Compensation Head).

HAND-CARRY Bikers can now cut travel time and bypass through Metro Manila high above the city's traffic jams by taking the Light Rail Transit (LRT).

Hillary to lobby for VFA–Miriam

From page A1

country and "vague" provisions jeopardized the Philippine Senate in September to pass a resolution urging Ms Arroyo to notify the United States of the Philippines' desire to renegotiate the accord and, if Washington refuses, to scrap it altogether.

"They're concerned about (the Senate resolution) and I am afraid they will pressure our President to disregard a resolution of the Philippine Senate," Santiago said in an interview on **radio dzRH.**

Santiago, who authored the resolution, said she did not believe Clinton's pronouncements that her two-day visit beginning this Friday was to show solidarity with Filipinos **badly battered by** two harsh storms recently.

"I do not believe that She's coming here because of the RH," Santiago said in Filipino.

But Santiago, who chairs the Senate foreign relations committee, said she did not **drink Ms Arroyo would use** on the anti-VFA resolution as this would jeopardize RP-US relations.

"If President Arroyo does **this, she knows this would spell** trouble for the country [at a time] when it is supposed to be busy preparing for the 2010 elections," Santiago said.

She also said Ms Arroyo would also probably think twice about pushing the VFA because some people might think she was interfering in what should be the job of the next administration.

Don't meddle in polls

The 13-year-old VFA has evoked a few political storms. Filipino nationalists demanded its abrogation four years ago following disputes over custody of US Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith after he was accused of raping the Filipina Nicole.

The prolonged presence in the southern Philippines of US Special Forces training Filipino soldiers in fighting the Abu Sayyaf bandits has also spurred calls for the scrapping of the military accord.

Asked about reports that May 2010 Philippine elections and **peaceful transfer of power** might crop up in Clinton's talks in Manila, Santiago said: "Why do Americans want to talk about our elections? They don't **have any role here."**

The senator said the problem with Washington was that it continued to get itself enmeshed in the mire of affairs of other countries in its desire to "fulfill its self-created role as the policeman of the world."

"They should leave our elections to us," Santiago said, citing how the United States had sanctioned the internal affairs of Vietnam and now in Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran.

"We're a small nation. They should leave us alone," she said.

Another issue likely to be discussed with Clinton is the Moro insurgency.

"We always welcome anybody who could help, whether from Malaysia or the Organization of the Islamic Conference, or other countries like Japan and the US," said deputy presidential spokesperson Gary Olivar.

MILF hope

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) said it hoped Clinton would visit Mindanao as she could see for herself the situation in the region.

"We join the entire Filipinos in welcoming her. It would be good if she can proceed to Mindanao to look into the situation of people affected by the conflict, as a gesture of goodwill," MILF vice chair for political affairs Ghazali Jaafar said on Sunday.

Olivar said it appeared to pave the way for a one-on-one meeting between Ms Arroyo **and US President Barack Obama** on the sidelines of the Apec summit.

"If [Ano] would be an opportunity for sideline talks between **the two, we would welcome** it because we continue to dialogue with our American friends on many things, beginning with the arrival of Secretary Clinton **this week,"** Olivar said in Filipino.

Olivar and Anthony Golez, another deputy presidential spokesperson, both declined to comment on whether the controversial VFA would be on the agenda of an Arroyo-Obama meeting.

Changing US image

The Apec summit in Singapore will mark an Obama attempt to show the region and a rising China that the United States is not in decline nor distracted by multiple crises elsewhere.

In a flurry of summits and statelevel sightseeing, Obama will leverage his personal popularity in a region where he spent childhood years, and which is now leading the world out of recession while the crippled US economy struggles.

Obama will begin his tour in Japan, attend the Apec summit in Singapore, have a rare encounter with a leader from Burma (Myanmar) at a historic US-Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) meeting, pay his first visit to China and go to South Korea.

Obama's top Asia policy aide, Jeffrey Bader, said the previous Bush administration saw relations with Asia mostly through a prism of its global antiterror campaign... an approach Obama will seek to change.

In a newly confident China expanded its regional clout, Washington's prestige suffered from the unreasonable spending and borrowing binge that triggered the worst economic crisis since the 1930s.

"I believe reports of America's demise, as they say, are considerably exaggerated and will look rather foolish in a few years," said Bader, director of Asian Affairs on the National Security Council. *With reports from Christine Q. Evangelista, AFP, Jeffrey Mathews, Inquirer Mindanao, and Inquirer Research*

INQUIRER

OPINION

RECONSTRUCTION

Lock in the moment

EDITORIAL

DISASTERS ARE NOT A PHILIPPINE MONOPOLY. In the same fortnight when the country sank under the weight of two catastrophic floods, for instance, other countries suffered massive losses from other natural calamities, too. This simple reminder, repeated at a time when the challenge confronting the nation has now turned into the search of funds for reconstruction, should sharpen the national government's sense of urgency.

Instead, we see Malacañang fritteringaway much of the concern and assistance it received from the international community, and wasting the public's readiness to try domestic measures, by fighting skirmishes over narrowly defined populist issues, such as the oil price cap.

What is needed at this time, the President's favorite economic adviser, Albay Gov. Joey Salceda, told us in a 90-minute briefing last week, is to "lock in the moment."

He was referring, in particular, to the need for a real public-private task force to raise the funds for reconstruction: "Lock in the moment since 85% of the reconstruction work is likely to transcend into the next administration," he said in his presentation, "through a high-profile credible institution through private-sector leadership armed with 'constrained' and 'full powers' to [that international] donors [will] talk to only one agency."

This was the original intention behind Salceda's proposal, which led to the creation, by executive fiat, of a Special National Public-Private Reconstruction Commission. That task force has since split into two: the Special National Public Reconstruction Commission (the nonsense of both "national" and "public" in the agency's title betrays the commission's origin), under the leadership of Finance Secretary Margarito Teves; and the Philippine Disaster Recovery Foundation, under the chairmanship of businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan.

The assembly-line splitting up couldn't be helpful. In the first place, the fine print of the executive order (No. 832) creating the Commission took a long time in materializing; when the word of the issue was for Malacañang to tactfully offer specifics, the public and the private invites that were supposed to take the lead in the joint commission were left guessing as to both detail and (eventually) motive.

In the second place—and this is something Salceda may disagree with—the original commission labored under the wages of sin. That is to say, President Macapagal-Arroyo's legitimacy crisis created the need for a special commission led by the private sector. But, it has since become clear, that earlier and lingering crisis effectively prevented the private sector from leading the special commission.

Which is why Salceda, always the pragmatist, suggests that the twin bodies "lock in the moment" by appointing key personalities with some track record to take charge of relocation (he nominates Vice President Noli de Castro), agriculture rehabilitation (former Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban) and flood control (former Manila mayor Bayani Fernando).

We can quibble with the details, but we do find Salceda's recommendations to be based on the right policy framework for thinking about, and thinking through, the challenge of reconstruction.

"Reconstruction must be pursued in the context of development"—as we have written in this space, and as several columnists have pointed out in these pages, it is not enough to simply rebuild. If we merely replace what we lost, we won't real up where we were before the great floods overwhelmed us; we will end up even worse off.

We cannot share Salceda's assumption that all the reconstruction money can only come from "bureaucratic resources." Perhaps the new administration will prove more nimble in unlocking the potential of the national budget, or more successful in plugging the billion-peso loopholes. But there is no question that much of the funding for reconstruction must be sourced from the country's friends abroad.

We should be able to miss what we need if we redefine the assistance not as donations but as investments—and we can only do that if, in Salceda's biting phrase, we restructure "as if we learned our lessons."

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A President without any strings attached

I HAD A LONG TALK WITH MR. CHZ RECENTLY on a Quezon City restaurant last week, during which Chz revealed why he left his party the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), which was about to anoint him as its presidential standard-bearer, and other perplexing things most of which were, however, all the event.

Is he still running for President?

Chz said he will make his decision, and announce it at a press conference, on November 15.

If he does run, it would be as an independent. Ironically, what he wanted was a President without any strings attached.

Every President we had, he said, was backed by financiers, business groups and vested interests. As they where the becomes President, he has a list of baggage weighing him down. The paramount fear of Cabinet appointees from those making wise decisions sometimes.

Is it not possible to have a President without any strings attached?

I answered his question with another question: Is it not possible for a President to forget everything in the past, financiers and all, and think only of what is best for the people?

Gratitude, "stang na ito," is an ingrained virtue of the Filipino, he replied. Filipinos who are not grateful are described with expletives like "smiling among no body" which is a very strong insult indeed. Donors to campaign funds expect the winner to observe the gratitude virtue. If they didn't, they wouldn't donate at all. The pledge can be as massive and as right as to bolster the peso in Malacañang. I don't want that.

Indeed, the belief that Chz would be but a surrogate of Erstwhile Contractor in Malacañang was already out in the open before Chz declared his independence.

Chz does not have his own trade like Mar, or Villar or Cha Teodoro or Fray Estrada. All he has is his party, the NPC. And what is the NPC without standing a campaign without?

"If Chz wins, it would not be him who would be President," pare rare comment. "Standing would be the de facto President."

There you have the dilemma. It would be difficult for a presidential candidate not to have a party, but having a party, especially the NPC of Sandiing, is a double-edged sword. It is good but it is also bad.

In what road should he take? Like Robert Penn. Chz chose the road less taken. The road where a presidential candidate is not weighed down by extra baggage.

And like Martin Luther King, Chz has a dream. He said what follows in Filipino but I have translated it into English:

"There are days when one is a madness to have one's party when running for President. Nobody has ever done this before, for me there is nothing wrong with dreams and dreaming. That's fine. And doesn't everything start from dreams? Man dreamed of flying, dreamed of flying to the moon, dreamed of talking to one's loved one wherever he or she is, etc. All of these are possible now.

"Is it wrong to dream to go to the presidency in a different and better way? Is it wrong to do what should be done to our nation without any strings attached?

"Is it wrong to believe that it is in the hands of every Filipino, rich or poor, the power to choose the next leader of the nation because we all have only one vote each anyway?

"In truth, if there is one thing that I want to do, it is to prove that, no matter how difficult life is, we should not stop dreaming for a better nation, if not now. I believe that we will achieve that in the near future. No matter what others say now, we should not stop dreaming."

We'll wait. I know now what Chz's favorite song is. It is Cesz Quiroz's song, "The Impossible Dream."

It is time that Sandiing refused to handcuff your campaign? I asked.

That's one area at all, he replied. We did our self-denial measures.

How come parting different?

So, we are still friends. In fact, many party members will still support my presidential run.

As an independent?

Why not? he replied. When Ramos and Estrada left their parties to run for presidential elections that left party candidates way behind, they were basically independents. Erap was basically an independent when he won a landslide victory against the administration party candidate.

We, Del look what they did to him.

He built, on hindsight.

What will make you decide to run or not to run?

Difficult to say. Chz said his dilemma is to run now without a party or wait six years and to again. What do you think?

Resign the latter, I replied.

He seemed to agree. In Philippine politics, if you don't have the presidency, it's very, very difficult to reconcile. You betray me the first time, or one ...

Richard Nixon was after losing to John F. Kennedy. I said.

That's in the US. But it has never been done here.

There's always a first time, I said.

Chz was cheered up by that. In fact, he cut-ons to his cellphone interesting facts about a presidential hero who eventually won. He dreamed to be one.

At 31 this man failed in business. At 32 he was defeated in a legislative race. At 35, he failed again in business. At 37, his girl friend died. At 38, he failed in his re-election. At 39, he lost another election. At 43, 46, and 48, he lost congressional races. At 51, he lost a senatorial race. At 56, he failed in a bid to become vice president of the United States. At 58, he lost in another senatorial race. But at 60, he was elected President of the US.

Who is this absent character?

Lincoln became not only President, but one of the most famous and best loved of American Presidents. But he died on Good Friday. Ironic that and killed by an actor, John Wilkes Booth. Brother did Richard Simon Booth his second name. He had to resign because of his wounds.

Anyway, Chz is only 46 years old. He has many more years ahead of him.

Greatness, sort of

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DID IT TEMPTED TO SIT SMARTY PICQUIAD can do without any additional pressure put on his shoulders. And to say that landing on the cover of Time is a pressure is like stating Chris Daniel should be a member of the Senate. It is huge. It makes winning his fight against Miguel Cotto this Sunday an absolute must. But I don't know that Pacquiao's shoulders aren't equal to it. That in fact is one of the reasons he has continued on this, but he is not bound by it. Look at the way he's looking forward to the fight against Cotto. Without hoping into tomb talk—his culture forces us to—indeed while everybody expects Pacquiao to annihilate Cotto, there is little doubt he can overcome. He is going to win. It's not just that losing is not an option, it's that it simply not on his lookout.

However hefted he does. That, too is not just how we are. It is the reason, it simply doesn't loom on our horizon.

I myself am a little ambivalent about Time's accolade.

On one side, it is of course a signal honor, a deep testament to the fact that Cha Pacquiao Aquino has done it before, and double so, a true unlikely to be duplicated in the near future. Being put on Time's cover means the, quite into the ranks of Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods, sports figures whose impact on the games they play has been real. Pacquiao himself has done the unprecedented feat of winning in several weight classes. Sugar Ray Leonard is right to say people do not listen to fully appreciate it when it is nothing short of spectacular. By himself, Leonard says, hasn't done it. No boxer has done it. Pacquiao isn't just demolishing adversaries, he is demolishing boundaries.

More than Jordan and Woods, Pacquiao has impacted not just on the game he plays but on the games other people play. That is to say, his impact has gone beyond sports. He can't just be here of this country, he is the savior of this country. This country exposes its hope, its future, its destiny on this every time he fights. At this point, I have pointed out, this unique way in this country drops to near-zero when he fights as no responsible bank robber would be hired playing his trade at that sacred hour. I am reported is that he unites Filipinos in more ways than one. Phew has been, I have changed that he has surpassed Muhammad Ali and that his victories are likely to redound to the benefit of its occupants and not for him anyway, men and women, young and old, privileged and not.

But Pacquiao's landing in Time is not with out its disquieting aspects too. He himself says that he seems to prove that he represents a small but mighty country. That's probably the last thing he wants to be that case, this writer has highlighted in fact is that his country is a puny one. All they have done is rush to slash relief the epic contrast between the heights he has reached and the depths his country has sunk to.

There's always something disquieting when a country puts its hopes, its future and its destiny on the outcome of a sports event. I know other countries do that with football. A player from Argentina was pointed down by unfortunate things for the unforgivable crime of not dentally kicking the ball into his own goal, thereby kicking Argentina out of the World Cup. And as everyone knows football is not a game to be played, it is a religion.

But it goes well beyond even that in this country. Pacquiao rose to fame by unmitigated gall at the very time his country fell into infamy by unmitigated gall. Pacquiao attained his glory at the very time Gloria attained her infamy. The heavens the country felt with Pacquiao's ascent to boxing infinitely came along with his rise to fame. The ability to separate Manny's descent to political depravity. The Philippines came to be known the world over as the home of the best pound for pound fighter, or being used by the rich and famous to become the home of the worst pound for pound thieving today. Pacquiao went on to become the most feminine fighter in the ring. The Philippines went on to become the most corrupt country in the globe.

The reason this country worships Pacquiao the way humankind's ancestors worshipped the sun is out of sheer need. The reason this country grabs to a halt every time Pacquiao fights is out of hope. Seeing nothing to be proud of, having indeed everything to be ashamed of, we look up to Pacquiao's fights as something to jump to up, as a source of reprieve, salvation. But victories aren't just our excuses, they are not a substitute for the real thing. Followed alone, for lives by viewers too. Looking the one, we make do with the other.

Truly, heaven forbid Pacquiao loses.

I am proud of Pacquiao being on the Time list thing. I am proud that he is the first Filipino that it represents a decline in the national stature, driven home by the fact that not too long ago a Filipino did so as well for a far more epic achievement. That was Corazon Aquino who made it there twice for having battled and wrestled the people rather than pauperizes them by narcosis. It is Cory's achievement that shows the country to be a small but mighty one, a country whose people are capable of great things. Not a country whose people simply cheer, selves, not hand their penchant for insidiously, and rise to breathtaking heights.

That is greatness. The other is just, well, sort of

Congresswoman or VP Arroyo?

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

IS any candidate who is found by the Commission on Elections to have violated the provision "shall be disqualified from continuing as a candidate, or if he has been elected, from holding the office." Moreover, a candidate is defined by Section 79(a) as "any person aspiring for or seeking an elective public office, who has filed a certificate of candidacy by himself or through an accredited political party, aggroupment, or coalition of parties."

From the above it can be seen that to commit an act that will subject a person to disqualification, that person must be a candidate, that is, one "who has filed a certificate of candidacy." Thus, it's a private person campaigning outside the campaign period but does not become a candidate, he has done nothing wrong. But he has to file his certificate of candidacy the earliest act of the private person becomes, according to the Court, the act of the private person-turned-candidate.

This is how right-minded lawyers both seven-dozen and more read the law. But this seems to run like an *ipse facto* bonus purse—a person is penalized for having exercised freedom of expression!

The "campaign contribution tax"

I have enclosed "campaign contribution tax" in quotation marks because I am trying to figure out what the real nature of the tax is.

The first point we remember is that, except for the power to impose "tariff rates, import and export quotas, tonnage and wharfage dues and other duties or imposts as Congress may provide," which Congress might give to the President, none of any kind come from Congress. Is what is being called a campaign contribution tax something that has come from Congress or is it an illicit imposition being made by the BIR?

The next point I understand the BIR's explanation is that it is an application of an old withholding tax provision in the Internal Revenue Code which says: "The Secretary of Finance may, upon the recommendation of the Commissioner, require the withholding of a tax on the items of income payable to natural or juridical persons, residing in the Philippines, by payor-corporations/persons as provided for by law, at the rate of not less than one percent (1%) but not more than thirty-two percent (32%) thereof, which shall be credited against the income tax liability of the taxpayer for the taxable year."

From this it seems that it is not the politician or political party that pays the tax but the person who is the politician's or party's source of contributions. Admittedly, however, the politician or the party will receive 5% less in spend!

True it is that the withholding tax provision has been in force all along. But, to the best of my knowledge, it is only now that it is being applied in an election campaign context. And since this imposition is being done for the first time as we approach what is developing into a fascinating election, one naturally wonders what gave birth to this bright idea. We shall be hearing more about this.

Incidentally the same Internal Revenue Code, in the section on Rates of Tax Payable by Donor, says that "any contribution in cash or in kind to any candidate, political party or coalition of parties for campaign purposes shall be governed by the Election Code, as amended." Does this have any relevance to donations specifically made for election campaigns?

The Academy at 111

IN MAY 1802, AS PART OF AN OVERALL PLAN TO strengthen his army for the coming campaign of Europe, Napoleon Bonaparte established the Imperial Special Military School at St. Cyr (Special Military School of St. Cyr). Today it, St. Cyr, the foremost French military academy, continues to provide military officers for France. The motto of the school is "They Study to Vanquish." Graduates are known as "St. Cyriens."

* * *

In October 1898, in a bid to undermine Filipino revolutionary forces, President and General-in-Chief Emilio Aguinaldo issued a decree establishing the Academia Militar in the town of Malolos, Bulacan, according to research work done by historian Col. Cesar Ribo, the Academia Militar had a structure and curriculum that was consistent with the objectives of a military institution of learning.

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

* * *

On Dec. 2, 1805, outnumbered French forces under Emperor Napoleon defeated the combined armies of Emperors Alexander of Russia and Francis of Austria, at the Battle of Austerlitz, also known as the Battle of the Three Emperors. Austerlitz is a town in Moravia (now in the Czech Republic of the Czech Republic. The French suffered some 9,000 casualties against 23,000 on the Russian and Austrian sides. Austerlitz is considered one of Napoleon's greatest victories. Some historians describe the battle as the Corsican's most brilliant and decisive victory.

* * *

On Dec. 2, 1899, the Battle of Tirad Pass was fought between American forces in her pursuit of Gen. Aguinaldo and a small band of Filipino soldiers under Gen. Gregorio del Pilar. There mission was to slow down or delay the advance of US troops to allow Aguinaldo more time for withdrawal and the establishment of a new defensive positions in the north.

Reporting on the Battle of Tirad Pass, American correspondent John McCutcheon, who was accompanying US forces, wrote: "The fight above the clouds at Tila Pass [the American name] when the trail crosses the big Cordillera from Boco that was in many respects, the crowning achievement of the war."

"This is certainly the deepest, it was a last stand and the only fight which can be compared in character of ground, fighting and desperation of resistance, although certainly not in magnitude, to such fights as Thermopylae and Bunker Hill. How confidently contented the position was may be seen from the fact that a small force of insurgents held back a battalion of Texans for nearly five hours and how loyal and devoted the Filipinos were, is told by the grim record that they left behind them. There were 52 killed (including Gen. Del Pilar) and wounded, out of sixty."

* * *

Two events that transpired almost a century apart in very different locations remind us how incomplete the best records of the soldiers' courage, sacrifice, loyalty and love of country.

* * *

Fort Del Pilar in Baguio City is the home of the Philippine Military Academy. Named after the revolution's youngest general and the hero of Tirad Pass, the fort epitomizes the persistent military tradition of the land.

While the abolition of the ROTC program, the PMA has become the principal source of military leaders for the Armed Forces. Until the establishment of the Philippine National Police Academy, the PMA also provided officers for the national police organization.

Graduates of the Mid-Seminaryers not just in key positions of the armed services but also in civilian positions. Foremost is the time this situation has been the subject of militarization charges brought against administrations that have seen fit to utilize retired military personnel in government.

A quick glance at the current Cabinet lineup shows the presence of graduates led by PMA graduates:

Executive Secretary—Alfredo Benito (Class of 1951)
Energy Secretary—Angelo Reyes (Class of 1966)
DENR Secretary—Lourdes Wenceslao (Class of 1969)
DPWH Secretary—Hermogenes Ebdane, Jr. (Class of 1976) (recently resigned)

There are many designees at the sub-cabinet and government-owned levels, as well as in our foreign service.

In the Senate, we have four senators: Rodolfo Biazon (Class of 1961), Gregorio Honasan (Class of 1971), Panfilo Lacson (Class of 1971), and Antonio Trillanes IV (Class of 1995). Four senators, four different party affiliations.

Among those who completed the four years at Fort Del Pilar, perhaps the most outstanding is former Ilo Vila, Class of 1937, a former Constitutional chief, AFP Chief of Staff, Secretary of National Defense, Executive Secretary and presidential candidate, (The best known lt. Cpt. alumnus is Gen. Charles De Gaulle, class of 1912, and first President of the Fifth Republic (1958-69).

Last October the PMA marked its 111th foundation anniversary with Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro as the guest of honor. For Teodoro it was his last foundation Day as Secretary of National Defense.

"I had each and everyone of you farewell. This is the last foundation Day that I will participate in as Secretary of National Defense," Teodoro told the cadets during the three foundation Days, for the time that you have supported the department on reforms that we sought to introduce which you embraced wholeheartedly and willingly." Earlier he urged a "No Compromise" policy against violations of the Honor Code, saying, "What makes you cadets different from other government officials is your willingness to abide by a strict code of conduct that is the Honor Code."

Teodoro also called for compassion. "We are not merely here to be robots and soldiers but thinking men and women that will lead our people with clarity and foresight." He stressed the importance of communication skills as a tool for leadership and a tool for service.

Of all the officials who have served as defense secretary none has shown more concern for the PMA than Gilberto Teodoro. He leaves in a time when he is most needed.

A word on the current PMA Superintendent Tier John, Leonardo Calderon, A. is the youngest member of Class 1976. His retirement date is set for March 2011, which means he will be around long after all his classmates would have left the service. A younger brother of former PDP chief Oscar Calderon, his future depends to a large extent on the success of the May elections.

* * *

Last call: The torch awarded International Master of the foreign diplomatic corps and selected local business cadets is scheduled for this coming Sunday, November 15, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the PICC Roxas Boulevard. Inquiries galore email all comers.

Conversations with Noynoy

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

INCREDIBLE AS IT MAY SEEM FOR A SON OF Cory Aquino, her Noynoy Aquino seems to have made double-faced pronouncements on his stand on reproductive health? That question must be asked, much to the consternation, I know, of anti-life/pro-choice advocates. But on how aquinistas accusations of secret knowledge, Noynoy has been heard to have said entirely contradictory positions on reproductive health.

One making the rounds of the chest-messaging world has come from deceased by Aquino's Manila Observatory on "reproductive health." It is last medical day, and the conversation had indeed taken place. But for the sake of intellectual argument, let's have the reprise of the conversation that Noynoy had supposedly made in Tagbilaran City after visiting the Bishop's House there last October in the "excerpted" form way:

MH: Isaiah of a Nobel Catholic (to-mumpsse). Is it true that you are for the reproductive health bill?

Noynoy: Yes, mumpsse, it is the key to the ills in our country, especially overpopulation. I already announced the point to position in Payatas on 11 October, they're in the hotspot. Many reasons express that should be made available to them.

MH: You believe in overpopulation and contraception?

Noynoy: Yes, mumpsse, it is what you understood to. Contraception per se is not bad, as what my Aunti Jemi friends told me in the interview.

MH: That's the idea of the locusts. They are not the magisterium, they don't represent the hope.

Noynoy: But that's what my conscience tells me.

MH: Are you sure? Conscience need to be formed under the teachings of the Church. If you insist on your pro-RH stand, I will assure you the entire clergy will campaign against you.

Now contrast that with a conversation Noynoy had with a family friend, a religious man whose identity we shall not divulge, but whose connection with Cory's family beginning in 1986 remains intimate. The venue of the conversation alone tells you the close ties of the good mass with the Aquino family: on Cory's grave side during the family gathering for the 40th day of the late president's death.

The same witness to me that conversation by summing up what Noynoy had said on the same issue of reproductive health: that he is against abortion, that he is against the legislation of artificial contraception and that couples cannot be coerced into contradicting their faith.

One thing is for sure, another thing is public. That about sums up Noynoy's position on reproductive health. That is not just an enigma. That spells danger for the Filipino electorate who now count, as the survey demographics say, by probably the millions who now look up to the young senator as their champion. And precisely for this reason, Noynoy's position on the issue of reproductive health will be tantamount to his being the future of this country in a most salient way, as the two conventional wagers, has wanted to have learned the costly result of traditional political rules and their practitioners for double-talk.

How now to explain that enigma? Search in the Bible, but one does know that political statements are measured to please a myriad of interests. Perhaps he is only playing lip service to the "popular joy" of artificial contraception as compared by survey numbers, as if to say that birth control would be one thousandth as sexual of hands. It is like saying that if most heads say abortion is okay, then it is truly okay and as if homicide the same. The way done of Church requirements is made of has fallen well.

What we do know, however, is that Noynoy Aquino, since his days as Tarlac congressman, is a member of PLCPD. That stands for Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development which is the main lobby for the legislation of artificial contraception in Congress. Noynoy is no neophyte in his provincial stories by PLCPD stalwarts, some of whom are the most militant advocates of reproductive health. Politics is never addressed "less subversive, and Noynoy is playing that game like a pro.

Last week, a blogger who is a regular in a talk show on national television made a plea to look out and confirm not to mobilize people to not vote for candidates who oppose reproductive health legislation. In so, that was said in the wrong people. Bishops and candidates are not the only ones who constitute the Church. It is the right of lay people, who too want to see the Cory phenomenon sustained, to express their say opinion to Noynoy Aquino the candidate.

There are lots of candidates for membership in the Church: laymen, women, ministers of faith, even ministers with the Pope. Communion of faith means believing every tenth the Church teaches. Anything less than those three conditions do not make one a Catholic. At best, one is only a semi-Catholic, but that is really semi-correct. So one can only be a Catholic in name, a no-no-no if you are a Jesuit priest, albeit a marginal one.

Having said that, we should not fear bishops and cardinals who do not "endorse" Senator Aquino. What we should fear instead are leaders who—Noynoy-or people who believe in myths and fallacies that disobey the dignity of the human being. That is the real threat to the moral fabric of this already decadent country of ours that lives on lies.

I would rather see Noynoy go down in defeat than compromise his faith.

Comments to manon@inc.edu.edu.ph

The 'what if?' of 1989

WORLD VIEW

Michael Meyer

NEW YORK—FOR WEEKS, THE SCENE HAS been replayed on TV screens around the world, as if the events were breaking news: person by person, clanking, long after midnight Wall, toppled 20 years ago on Nov. 9, 1989. "The Moser let Peck," the people cried out, pecking their fists in the air before the cameras at the Brandenburg Gate. "The Wall is gone!"

Without doubt, it is one of the iconic images of the 20th century, for Americans, especially. It was the natural symbol of victory in the Cold War. Yet, if you were there that night, as I was for Newsweek, the moment is more ambiguous, especially with the hindsight of two decades. Nothing that happened that night or in the days that followed happened very differently, and almost did.

Egon Krenz, the Communist boss of the German Democratic Republic, called it a "breach." He was surveying a vast moment of triumph when his party spokesman stepped by in the late afternoon of Nov. 9. "Hauptling kommunizierte!" ordered Günter Schabowski, innocently. Krenz hesitated, then handed him a press release. It was to announce a major initiative he had forced through parliament only hours earlier, and which did not include the end of the Wall. It had been demanding in the streets for weeks: the right to travel. Krenz intended to give it to them—but only the next day, November 10.

Oblivious to this critical fact, Schabowski went off and read it out to the world in a monotonous register. "When does it take effect?" reporters asked. Confused, Schabowski neglected the all-important clause "as for," he said. "Immediately." In a heartbeat, the damage was done. Astounded East Germany officials in the Politburo were watching events on the West Berlin guards, receiving no instructions and not knowing what else to do, opened their cop. The east is history.

Accidents has always shaped human destiny.

Michael Meyer, Newsweek's former chief in Germany and Eastern Europe in 1989, is author of "The Year That Changed the World."

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Ominous clouds over 2010

LETTERS

FIRST THERE WAS LOCAL GOMBURZA (Jejomar Binay/Gerardo "Bonoy" Pineda) withdrawing from the vice presidential race. Then Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero resigned from the Nationalist People's Coalition. Next came Malacañang's ramping a "dummy" for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to run for Congress. These seem to imply unresolved political tiffs to portend ominous possibilities for the 2010 elections.

Despite White Sierra, Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia and Sen. Loren Legarda declaring widespread abuse as possible owning teams of Lakas-Kampi's presidential bet Gilbert Teodoro, Duño had a futty line back on the administration party's nomination. That he or guberic gave way is not typically Pinoy. Something more compelling forced him out. Was he told to spend his own money for the cause, pegs? Since he lost that a VP run might have him withdrawn since the campaign began? Are chances to survive the "tsunami" that now threatens to engulf GMA and her criminal syndicate better if

he remains head of the Department of the Interior and Local Government? Or is he losing some health problems?

Escudero's bombshell, announced on the premise that political parties don't necessarily mean good and honest government initially looked like political face-saver driven by financial frustrations. "Say misleading endorsements from prized-pint quarters, including Magdalo, hinted of warnings that rival political parties can only dismiss at their own peril. Indeed, significant parts of the left, the pinoys, the filled over and even some of the elite are all feeling the same need for ancient change and political relevance, which Escudero is asking from presidential aspirants. And it seems that Chiz has progressed the farthest based on those of a television should the 2010 elections end in failure: Magdalo's ad (hearsay, 11/3/09) reminds us of several possibilities.

Again else Archbishop Cruz optimistic one say that more and leaders in a Pampanga congressional district seem her to run for congress. Is this the same rumor that Among Ed Panlilio, Randy David and most of the people in Pampanga and the rest of the country seem not to host, ghost MRPO less than flattering image?

The more Duño downplayers together. Then take note of the disarray in the negotiation of new voters and the Commission on Elections's lack of competency in its automation efforts. These should cause everyone involved—and hoping to get involved—in the 2010 election some pause.

Duno and Escudero (since there's something rotten about the 2010 polls and have served notice about risk to way of) threw ways. The "dummy" for a GMA management candidacy is one more costly gamble that does would be a prime indictment of elections in 2010. And this could provide the dipping point for bloody ass. Premonitions which need to be prevented so that 2010 can see force to quit legal immunity and way to ensure beyond June 2010.

—Ann Hidas (jordan@gmail.com)

Long-term vision in Gordon's SB 3428

THE NEWS STORIES ON SEN. FRANCIS "Chiz" Escudero's letting the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) practically "hood-ed" the front pages of newspapers and prime time news broadcasts. But what's the big fuss about Chiz? It was as if we lost a leader because of his resignation from the NPC. And it's even doubtful if he really has what it takes to become a good president.

On the other hand, there was hardly any story about Senate Bill 3428 which seeks to develop Laguna de Bay along the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) model—although the location had a story about the bill on page 6 of the paper's Jan. 20 issue.

Proposed by Sen. Richard Gordon, the bill, if passed, would be a positive step toward effectively addressing the country's current crisis where to release some 2.7 million metric tonnes to safer grounds; how to address the health needs of 163,000 displaced people who continue to stay in evacuation centers and to provide them with livelihood; and how to check the spread of leptospirosis that has already claimed 175 lives and continues to afflict hundreds of others.

According to United Nations experts, a polgate or release for 2.7 billion cubic-feet volume will take 30 years to implement at a cost of 75.06 billion. Chiz is worried about 2010 only because Gordon's vision goes far short by 20 years.

—HARRY GARROW II, Block I, 135 Primrose St., Capitol Park Homes, Caloocan City

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The audacity of Chiz

THE DARING OF SEN. FRANCIS "CHIZ" ESCUDERO to pursue his presidential ambition without the resounding support of a political party marks the first time in our political history (since young men without a political party is starting to overthrow a corrupt government through the ballot—a task comparable to, or immensity to, attack the man's aspiring for the presidency of the United States).

It may appear quixotic for with the present public distrust of and anger at the administration of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Chiz might just pull it off, just as Barack Obama did against the unpopular President George Bush.

And with a spectacular difference over Chiz. If he hangs on long enough, he found to learn, carrying by "using no-lost" ("or debt of gratitude") to any political party, politician or businessman), big or small, and rinse he must free class any other presidential candidates to do all that needed to do during the election campaign.

Not to mention that as a person, this presidential candidate is as known as he involved in any racket or any immoral, illegal or dishonest activity—or else other hand, he is an experienced lawmaker, a lawyer, and a gift and knowledgeable as one could wish of a presidential candidate.

And best of all, he is young. Thus, he is the personification of Rizal's dream of the youth being the "hope of the fatherland."

Thus, the presidential election of 2010 will be remarkable in the size of the youth vote for Chiz. But in your wake the surge of enthusiasm among the youth, first the big coalition of young people lining up for hours to register to vote in 2009. Already the Commission on Elections has run out of forms, and the deadline for registration has passed, but still they are there in line, clamoring for vacation.

Talk of a coming storm. Talk of a coming flood. Is it coming in 2010, presaged by storm "Ondoy" and typhoon "Pepeng," it will be an act of God!

—ERNESTO CARANDO, amandocaran1@yahoo.com
Virginia Village, B. Rodriguez St., Cebu City

How government failed during the disaster

WHILE RESIDENTS OF SAN MIGUEL IN the Sapyandoon area shouted for the people dying in water of national disaster, we find it quite tragic that the floods and landslides that hit the country were as much a man-made calamity as they were natural. The heavy rains were as much to be blamed, but there's more: where were the modern weather radar systems and other equipment. As typhoon Ondoy, the rescue helicopters? And we thought we had it all, the Philippines being the dumping ground of ill military equipment.

We could only lament as we looked at the faces of mothers carrying their tender infants wading through raging flood currents. We could only despair as the very old and very young women cramped in the front what were once friendly roads, now scenes straight out of the study of Noah's Ark.

What made it even more tragic was due to this calamity, women were the most vulnerable, not only because we are the majority of the poor but because most of us live and survive precisely on natural resources. Women as farmers of small produce, as fishers, as caretakers of natural resources. We live close to the earth, not in high-rise condominiums and business towers.

Other poor women and their families live in shanties, in low-lying, flood-prone congested areas near water drains and big open creeks. So that the rich ones were not affected by the disasters.

But what makes us unwise is angry. If not frustration, is the Arroyo government's setback or neglect of pro-environment programs, which have come to roll on streams. How government was for climate change to make our country a virtual Noah's Ark backward? This, as the de facto government's economic-men are selling our natural resources. Philippine mining and forest lands, including rivers and streams, have long been up for grabs to the highest bidder for exploitation and exploitation.

We badly need more than deputation. We have to activate mitigating measures and care for Mother Nature, quick!

—ROSA PALLA, Cafe La Mesa at the Ayala Fort Bonifacio Rotunda Region, upalarep@gmail.com
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Dominoes to mark fall of wall

Associated Press

ried messages, including "We are one people." The approximately 1,000 dominoes stretching for 1.3 kilometers will be toppled on Monday as part of wider celebrations of the wall's fall.

Dire labeled "bleeding heart" showed a sweet coming through the city of Berlin, starting a crimson flow of blood sprinkled with crosses.

"Everyone has walls in their heads to a certain extent," Berlin resident Steffen Schneider said as he perused the domino display. "It's always a good thing if one can break them down, and I think this is a good symbol."

In recent weeks, polls have been released on the differences, and as often as not, the similarities, between the former East and West Germany to matters of love and real estate, table manners and car ownership.

Beneath the trivial differences lies a country more together than anyone expected.

Dark history

Former Polish leader Lech Walesa, whose pro-democracy movement Solidarity played a key role in ending communism in Eastern Europe, is to tip the first domino on Monday as the artistic display comes toppling down.

US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev also are expected to be on hand for the festival commemorations of the wall's opening on Nov. 9, 1989.

Especially among the young, there is the sense that the aspiration to transcend Germany's dark history and simply become normal may finally be within reach.

"For people from our generation, it's just a part of German history," said Sebastian Mehlitz, 19, a student at the Alexander von Humboldt High School in the former East Germany. "For us this division doesn't really exist anymore."

The latest round of news media accounts on the commemorations' final hours of the wall have emphasized not some sense of historical inevitability driven by economics and geopolitics, but rather the capricious human side of the event.

Bureaucratic confusion

Bureaucratic confusion over new travel regulations led crowds of East Berliners to gather at border checkpoints on that November night 20 years ago, prompting guards to open the gates and bringing a sudden end to the division of the city with a night of spontaneous celebration and reunion.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, herself a resident of East Germany when the wall fell, said in her weekly podcast on Saturday that it was a day that "changed the lives of many people including me."

"It is particularly nice for us to be able to celebrate this day with our European neighbors," Merkel said. "We Germans will not forget our neighbors and allies who made the path to German reunification possible."

Reunification costs

A new study shows that some 1.5 million more (about $1.9 trillion) have been transferred from the west to rebuild the east, a newspaper reported.

The report by the Halle-based IWH research institute showed the net transfers from west to east—a sum equivalent to over half Germany's total economic output in 2008—had "risen significantly" in the past decade, according to the weekly Welt am Sonntag.

The east has cut off many shackles from its communist past, thanks partly to the transfers, but unemployment remains nearly double that of the west and economists say it is still years away from catching up with the richer part of the country.

Reminders remain that 136 people were killed while trying to cross the border during its 28 years existence. *Reports from AP, New York Times News Service and Reuters*

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Assistant Editor Tony Burgonia

Order halt to aerial spraying, DA urged

THE PERICONS, government-constructed an improvised wooden bridge to give access to residents in the villages of San Isidro and Bubo (the) the San Isidro Bridge or San Isidro, Pilipinas, Laguna collapsed during the onslaught of Typhoon "Santi." Residents from the fallen bridge are seen scattered in the distance.

Typhoon 'Santi' ruined 400-year-old bridges

MAJAYJAY, LAGUNA—THE TWO major bridges that collapsed in this town after the flash floods spawned by Typhoon "Santi" battered the province on Oct. 31 were more than 400 years old.

The first one was the 30-tile bridge that stood over Ilya river and connected the villages of Floridas, Bangil and San Miguel in the Majayjay town proper.

The second was the San Isidro bridge over Bubo river in Barangay San Isidro Bubo which serves as the town's major thoroughfare to Laguna's capital in Sta Cruz.

"It was the first time that happened here in many years," said Ismelo Tayagan, chief of the village watchmen in Gerahe.

Resident Arnold Arias added that even before the town became known as Majayjay these bridges had already existed.

The collapse left a 40-meter gap in each of the two bridges.

Residents claimed that at the height of the typhoon, water from the Ulya river went over the 30-meter high Centro bridge and rose to about six feet above it.

"The water rose and subsided quickly," said Arias.

Two days after the typhoon's onslaught, Majayjay Mayor Veronica Bonifilon ordered the construction of temporary wooden bridges down the concrete viaduct where people could walk over to get to the other side of the gap.

The wooden bridge in San Isidro, however, also collapsed when the river rose again due to Typhoon "Pepe," prompting the authorities to build another one the following day.

"We now have to spend double for the oil. The water is also bigger by six feet," said Arias, who is also a tricycle driver.

He said their concern now is how to bring sick persons to the hospital during an emergency. One has to cross over the broken bridges, from either side, to get to the Majayjay community hospital, the only one in the municipality.

"Ideal thing for municipal government had the ambulances stationed (at the bridges' gaps) for medicines," he added.

In a partial report from the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council, 161 families were affected and 37 homes were totally damaged by the typhoon here but no one was reported to have died.

At least that's a week. Majayjay, a fourth class municipality is slowly getting back on its feet from the devastation wrought by the typhoon.

The residents were able to rebuild their homes while others were seen to their windows washing it is unnecessary for evacuation centers here, Bonifilon said.

He said fallen posts were replaced and electric supply was restored two days after the typhoon.

Vice Mayor Avelino Sibernala said a resolution by the municipal council is already underway to help families affected by the collapse of the bridges. Marlene Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Laguna rice farmers brace for black bugs

AFTER THE DELUGE, LANDslides, and collapsed bridges, all blamed on the spate of typhoons that struck Laguna, what could be forthcoming?

George Berra, mayor of Cabuyao town, said a day after Typhoon "Santi" that packed strong winds on the province, black bugs appeared, swarming rice fields in his town.

"That was Nov. 1. He were able to fill up one inch of rice with black bugs (single swarming) around a single hill (Tuft)," Berra said.

The rice black bugs (Scotinophora coarctata), also arrogant insects or bigs (Tagalog), Philippine cuda, which have a distinct foul odor, are armored to fight. They also thrive during the fall season.

The pests eat the base of the rice stem, draining the plant of its sap, said engineer Rex Grasso, agricultural program coordinating officer of the Department of Agriculture in Laguna.

Berra, speaking in the recent climate change hearing with local officials in Laguna, said the black bugs also appeared in other Laguna towns after the typhoon.

"Pity Laguna, it's going to be a deluge. First, the typhoons and now these (pests)," said Grasso.

If not contained, the black bugs could totally wipe out the farmers' harvest, she warned.

In 2008, black bugs infested Calauan City, ruining the city's rice harvest by half. The pests also attacked the nearby towns of Los Baños and Bay, said provincial agriculturist Marlon Ebbas.

He said the black bug plague last year, which lasted for one full planting season or four months, also spread to the towns of Cabuyao, Calauan, San Pablo City and Victoria.

In one site, farmers there could fill up 20 sacks of rice with the bugs.

"They just disappeared then. It's uncanny," said Grasso.

Grasso said the typhoons that left flood and the pests have damaged, in some areas, 50 percent of the rice harvest.

To contain the bugs, the Department of Agriculture sent a special blue light similar to a strobe light to saturate the black bugs and make them easier to be caught.

Grasso said this is more effective and safer than spraying pesticides, although earth-destroyed is already available but advisable only during worst cases of the plague.

Berra noted that farmers, particularly in Cabuyao and Calamba City should keep monitoring the pests as the towns are on their harvest season this month.

Tolitas, however, said that the black bugs "may not be a major pest" given that some farmlands had already harvested their crops and several others were already damaged by the flood, hence the pest may not have much effect.

He added that municipal agricultural are also trained in preventing the spread of the black bugs.

A partial report from the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council estimated 15,000 affected records of damaged palay. Reports agriculture brought about by Sarah Marlene Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Evacuees struggle to return to normal lives

SAN PABLO CITY—EVACUEES IN this East Luzon town said parts of San Pablo's town struggled to return to their normal lives after the loss of their homes, properties and sources of livelihood due to Typhoon Ilon in "Dudoy."

Velmarie Gordon, deputy provincial coordinator of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council, said some evacuees did not want to stay idle.

Many of them went back to their homes even if there were still flooded, while those who have places to stay in the submerged public markets were trying every measure they could ply their trade even if they have to earn hundreds.

"Life has to go on among the evacuees," said Gordon.

He said only about 10,000 evacuees were still living in evacuation centers throughout the province, a significant reduction from the more than 100,000 evacuees a day after Ondoy flooded several villages of the province.

Gordon said, however, that the evacuees, who had returned to their homes, were given instructions to be vigilant during bad weather or rainy days to immediately go to safer places to avoid risks in their lives.

Celia Moreno, president of the Rotary Club San Pedro chapter, said that to their visits to some evacuation centers, people were idle simply because there was nothing to do or they had no job offered to them.

Local chapters of the organization and the Rotary Club International from Australia and other countries had joined hands to provide the evacuees with the so-called "shelter boxes" or tents measuring around 2 meters by 3 meters with metal frames that could accommodate at least one family.

Around 15 shelter boxes, each costing around P12,000, have been supplied to evacuees in San Pedro town and distributed to various evacuation sites in Tagaytay, Cavite and Biñan and Barangay Langgam, San Pedro Central School and Pacita Elementary School in the same proper, and another in Barangay Cayabu.

Records from the Department of Social Welfare and Development showed that there are around 6,000 evacuees now in these areas, said Montano.

The Rotary also supplied around 80 shelter boxes in Cabuyao, Calamba and Sta. Cruz and Sta. Rosa City.

Resolution simply asked the evacuees to take good care of their shelter boxes, added Montano.

But Gordon said the organization planned to provide microfinancing and livelihood opportunities in agriculture, soap making and food processing or would help the evacuees take vocational courses from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority. Inquirer Pantie, Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE 60TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE PHILIPPINE ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION combined with: the 29th ASEAN Othopaedic Association Meeting; 2nd ASEAN Arthroplasty Association Meeting; & 1st Paediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA)-POA Course: "A Global Perspective of Lower Limb Orthopaedics"

POA @60: Bracing to be a Pillar in the World of Orthopaedics

Animals, plants lose homes due to erosion

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—TROPICAL DEpression "Pepeng" not only damaged human habitat but it also endangered animals and indigenous plants when landslides hit protected mountain ranges, conservationists said on Wednesday.

Government reports from Oct. 8 to 10 displaced the animal and plant species studied in the mountain slopes of Pugong in La Trinidad, Benguet, the forested areas along Halsema Highway and Mt. Pulag, the highest mountain in Luzon, said Reynold Ganan, Cordillera technical director of the Protected Area, Wildlife and Coastal Zone Management Service (DENR-CWSC).

"The agency is an attached bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Ganan said there were the first recorded landslides to damage mossy forests.

"The landslides may seem natural, notable to climate change. There was an increase in temperature, therefore, there was labor an increase in the amount of rainfall that caused soil erosion and too much flooding," Ganan said in a news conference.

The mossy forests are the natural habitats of the rare giant buddy dwarf tree / Cratoxylum cholandroides, which ranks their home to the 11,000-hectare Mt. Pulog National Park.

Pilosa Nature Park, Mt. Pauoine ended last month, the habitat of the west rain (Pseudotorrix philippinensis/locally known as "yoot" ("tinsiad" in the lowland), was also disturbed, Ganan said.

The DWCCSD released a list of endangered species affected by climate change, among them: the dwarf dendrobium (Dipodium pulchellum), the ground birds called Buddy's Pitta and the Luzon Water-redstart, the Northern Sierra Tailed Giant Cloud Rat, the Kaapuri Tail Dasyure, and the Philippine deer.

The list also included endangered plant life like the dwarf bamboo, the Pulag Canyon Grass, the Pitcher Plant, the orchid, Bulbophyllum spp., and the Lipstick plant sp. (epiphyte).

PHIVOLCS said increased temperature may delay or prevent the blooming of local plants, which serve as food for the endangered animals.

"Melting of species may also be hampered or may not be realized at all. Height adapted to cool temperature / biome may also migrate to look for cold places and may die in the process," it said.

"Climatic changes on the onset of wet and dry season, valid temperature swings, landslides, and loss due to excessive rains / limited habitat loss [which sometimes to] wildlife endangerment," it added.

Yaman said river rats, which feed on coffee berry and other fruit bearing trees in eroded areas in Mt. Province, may have already abandoned their orchards.

"If the natural habitat is destroyed, our food chain will be affected and our source of food may also be affected," he said.

Next to Mt. Apo in Mindanao, Mt. Pulag is the country's second highest mountain at 2,922 meters (9,586 feet) above sea level. It is host to 55 bird species and home to others wildlife species such as Asiatic bat and Philippine deer.

During the last decade, conservationists have been concerned about the forests losing Mt. Pulag and Mt. Data which have been converted to vegetable farms.

"To prevent the biggest impact of climate change, the encroachment and land conversion of these forest areas should already stop. The practice of farming on slopes and from areas be also stopped," Yaman said.

DESPITE the good weather, a carved mountain walk left by Tropical Depression "Pepeng" continued to erode in Mountain Province. Erosion were called in to keep down the vehicle tracks, but it will took almost a day to clear the only road leading to Bontoc, the capital town.

Guimaras dads step up drive against large scale mining

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—GUIMARAS OFficials and residents have heightened their opposition to large-scale mining activities on the island amid renewed applications for mining exploration covering 65 percent of the island or around 37,000 hectares.

Governor Gov Felipe Nava said they have started a second round of signature campaign this time focusing on barangays in the province as part of their province-wide advocacy against large-scale mining.

"We will block the applications because it would be difficult if the exploration operations start," Nava told the Inquirer in a text message on Thursday.

Nava said the mining operations would destroy the island's tourism potential, rich biodiversity and the livelihood of the people.

Church

Environmental and church groups have been in the opposition of Guimaras nardsrin against the applications fearing its impact to the island's environment still swirling from the massive oil spill in 2006.

Msgr. Melmar Gea, director of the Save Archdiocesan Social Action Center, said they were supporting the campaign against mining activities in line with the pastoral letter issued by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, which called for the repeal of the Mining Act of 1995.

"Despite the opposition of residents and officials, the applications have not stopped and are being processed. We must continue to be vigilant," Oro said in a telephone interview on Thursday.

There is one approved mining exploration application in Guimaras and three other pending applications as of Sept. 30, data from the Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau in Western Visayas showed.

The MGB issued a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement to extract limestone to the Darong Cement Corp. on June 16, 1993, covering 1,750 ha in Jordan and Buenavista towns.

Applications

The operations have not started and the company was still undertaking its Environment Impact Assessment.

The pending applications for exploration cover 34,000-hectare or 57.24 percent of the province's total land area.

These include applications of the Philippine Bauxite Resources and Properties Corp. covering areas within Nueva Valencia town; Global Philippine Mining and Development Corp. covering Nueva Valencia, Jordan and San Lorenzo and Philippine Mining and Development Corp. covering the towns of Buenavista, Jordan, San Lorenzo and Sibunag.

The MGB pointed out in a statement that all the pending applications were still exploration activities and did not necessarily mean that these would develop into full-blown mining operations.

Relinquishment

The agency also clarified that while large areas were necessary for exploration activities, not all the areas would be utilized.

"It's easy to overstate belief that the grant of large tracts of land to mining contractors will result in massive land degradation, it should be emphasized that the grant of as much as 65,000 ha for mineral exploration is subject to relinquishment," the MGB said.

Relinquishment involves the mandated reduction of the approved area for exploration where the contractor returns to the government parts of the area that have close or no mineral potential.

Japan firms bring jobs to Negrenses

By Carla P Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—TWENTY two executives of Japanese firms are in Negros Occidental to look into bringing more businesses to Japan under an ongoing man-and-unit livelihood program.

The program is being implemented by the Negros Japan-Human Resource Exchange Association Inc. (KLIHREA) in partnership with the Multi-Commission Cooperative (Maxcoop) in Japan and the Philippine Japan Technical Skills Association Inc. (PJ-TSDA).

Leading the Japanese delegation to Negros are Toshiki Koyama, Maxcoop secretary general; Emmanuel Saito, Maxcoop consultant; and Yoshihiro Nakamura, PJ-TSDA president.

"The improved Japanese economy will allow us to accept more trainees, we hope to bring about 150 more next year," Saito said at a welcome dinner for the Japanese delegation at Grand Regal Hotel in Bacolod City late last night.

He said the income of the trainees, who will mainly work in construction companies in Japan as welders, masons and carpenters, will help the families of peso-less-the Negros economy, so they not only learn new skills but are also able to improve the lives of their families and help their provinces.

Negros Occidental Gov. Isidro Ceriaco said the Japanese delegation for hosting friendship and the man-and-unit livelihood program that has already benefited hundreds of Negrenses.

He also thanked the Japanese for sharing with the Filipino people their construction technology and work ethic.

"We wish for the continued success of our partnership," he told the Japanese delegation.

Roberto Montelibano, NJ-HREA and Negros Bacolod Chamber of Commerce and Industry president, said the program enables Negrense trainees to learn the Japanese work ethic that includes to them that with hard work they can succeed.

LGU, Church in Tanay support antidam marchers

SIOBHA MARIE THORSHEIM, farmers, religious and environmentalist groups on a 140-kilometer march against the Laiban dam received a much needed respite and support when they entered Tanay, Rizal, on Sunday.

Tanay Mayor Rafael Tagulao, to tell the Inquirer in a text message that the local government and the Catholic church in Tanay held a solidarity program to greet the marchers.

The nine-day march to Malacañang organized by the Save Sierra Madre Network Movement on Wednesday to General Nakar, Quezon.

Tagulao said they strongly oppose the project, a joint venture project of the San Miguel Corp. and the Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System, which has been designed to divert water from two river systems in the Sierra Madre—Kaliwa and Kanan—to supply potable water to Rizal and Manila.

The two mountain rivers are major tributaries of the Agos River, which runs along General Nakar and Infanta towns.

In August, the Tanay municipal council passed a resolution indicating that the project will be costly and would cause irreparable damage to biodiversity inside the critical watershed area.

The resolution noted that the project was not properly endorsed by the Tanay municipal development council, provincial development council of Rizal, and the regional development council of Calabarzon.

Another group of farmers and indigenous people led by Bigkis at Lakas ng mga Katutubo sa Timog Katagalugan (Bukatis) held a fact-finding mission from Nov. 6-8 to Sitio/pey Lamutan in General Nakar to investigate reports of harassment of Dumagat leaders opposing the dam in northern Quezon.

Tony Calbayog, chairperson of Bukatis, said they would not stop protesting the project because "it is the very lives of indigenous people that are at stake."

The 28,000-hectare dam construction would displace 4,452 families from seven barangays and flood rainforests with endemic and endangered species, and areas being claimed as ancestral lands by the Dumagat and Remontado peoples, said a statement of the Freedom from Debt Coalition, Bantayanong Ilog Pasig and Philippine Rivers Network.

ENVIRONMENTAL activists arrive in Tanay, Rizal, on Sunday after marching for two days from General Nakar, Quezon, to protest the construction of the controversial Laiban Dam, which they say is planned to be built near the Marikina Infanta earthquake fault and can cause massive destruction in the Sierra Madre Mountain Range.

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During the last decade, conservationists have been concerned about the forests losing Mt. Pulag and Mt. Data which have been converted to vegetable farms.

"To prevent the biggest impact of climate change, the encroachment and land conversion of these forest areas should already stop. The practice of farming on slopes and from areas be also stopped," Yaman said.

NHA asked to relocate 300 Baguio residents

BAGUIO CITY—THE NATIONAL Housing Authority has been asked to look for relocation sites for 300 Baguio residents displaced by recent landslides and typhoons in the city.

The city government is preparing another list for people living in areas endangered by future landslides, said Mayor Bernardo Bautista Jr. on Thursday.

He said the list has been sent to Federico Lasa, NHA general manager, on the instructions of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Ms Arroyo ordered Bautista last month to address the risks posed by ground instability that dare back to the 1990 Luzon earthquake.

Geologists discovered fractures in sections of Baguio where the city was devastated by the earthquake.

Landslides unleashed by rains dumped in October by Tropical Depression "Pepeng" have provided geologists better information about the geological foundation of some villages here, said Fay April, chief geologist of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

But she said the information should not create fear because the general weaknesses are natural to communities living on steep sloping terrain.

Engineering technology allows housing developers to design houses suited for mountain settlements, like the Cordillera, she said.

The city government proposed a policy in 1990 requiring building heights in only four stories in light of the geological weaknesses, but it was no longer enforced 18 years later because of this technology said Mercedes Joyno, a senior Cordillera director of the Land Management Service. The LMS is an attached agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Green planners like retired city architect Joseph Alabastro have been pushing for Baguio's decongestion as early as 1993, saying ground weaknesses evidence the theory that Baguio has breached its natural resource carrying capacity.

Alabastro, a former presidential adviser on urban planning during the Ramos administration, cautioned a plan to disperse settlements and investments to a metropolitan area that would be formed out of Baguio and its neighboring Benguet towns of La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan and Tuba or the SLIT growth area.

But his could the need to relocate Baguio and Benguet residents victimized by landslides and flash floods made the SLIT plan essential.

Sablan, about 10 km from Baguio, had offered to develop vast lands into housing areas to accommodate those displaced residents, he said.

Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

W. Visayas heightens drive vs 52,000 loose firearms

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) in Western Visayas has stepped up its campaign to account for nearly 52,000 loose firearms in the region.

After a three-month campaign which started on Aug. 1, the Police Regional Office 6 has only accounted for around 17,000 firearms that were surrendered, apprehended or applied for licensing. The remaining 44,150 loose firearms remain unaccounted.

"There is a still a significant number that we cannot trace because they could have been taken out of the region but we are still hopeful our campaign," Chief Supt. Isagani Cuevas, Western Visayas police director, told the Inquirer in a telephone interview on Sunday.

Cuevas said the bulk of loose firearms or around 29,000 have expired firearms that need to be renewed before the PNP's Firearms, Explosives, Security Agencies and Guards Supervision Section (FESAGSU).

A month-long firearms amnesty program to register firearms with expired license which ended October was extended for another month to accommodate more applicants.

Gun owners can register their firearms for a P1,000 fee for every unlicensed firearm and P900 for every license still on expired license.

Cuevas said they have seen around 20,000 letters to owners of firearms that were previously registered but have expired licenses. Police in the region have also distributed around 3000 such notices to media.

He has also directed police stations to apprehend or enforce for registration at least one loose firearm every week.

Police units will continue to conduct raids and checkpoints to recover the firearms after the amnesty period has lapsed, Cuevas said.

The program is part of the efforts of the government to ensure an orderly and peaceful elections in 2010, he said.

There are about 3.1 million loose firearms in the country with the World Health Organization ranking the Philippines tenth among countries with a high rate of gun-related killings, a 1980-6 statement said.

AKO BILANG AKO

Madalas pong sinasabi na ang demokrasya o pasya kaugnay sa pagtakbo o hindi pagtakbo sa anumang posisyon, dapat personal at hindi iniisa isa ibang tao. At hindi rin ito dapat na ipinapasa o inaasa kanino man.

Let this be the first test of leadership for any putative candidate, for that person to decide on his own whether or not he will run and what position he will run for. Hayaan po ninyong paliwanagan ko 'yan sa aking sa ito.

Nais ko pong ipabatid na ako ay nagpaalam at nag-resign na bilang miyembro ng National People's Coalition o NPC. Ito po ang partido na kinabibilangan ko mula pa noong 1998, noong ako ay pumasok sa larangan ng politika.

Ito po ay aking ginagawa sa tatlong kadahilanan.

Una, sinumang nagbabalak na tumakbo bilang pangulo, dapat walang pamboong kinabibilangan - NPC, LP, NP o Lakas. **Ang dapat na partidong kinabibilangan ng sinumang nagpapaplanong tumakbo, dapat, Pilipinas. At lahat ng kapartido niya, dapat lahat din ng Pilipino.**

Lahat ng Pilipino, bata man o matanda, babae man o lalaki, mahirap man o mayaman, nakapag-aral man o hindi, dilaw man o pula ang kulay, binoto ka man o hindi, dapat buong mo na pantay at pareho. Hindi puwede na ang pinakikinggan at tinitingnan mo lang ay patagong mga kapartido mo habang pinakikinggan at tinitingnan mo na lang nuka sa maliliyo ang mga hindi mo kapuso.

Wala po ni isang partido ang nagmamay-ari ng lahat ng galing at talento kaugnay ng pagpapalingkod ng mga problema ng ating bansa. Kaiangan po, kasama kayo. Hindi puwede, habibilang, na ako lang misama, dapat pati rin kayo. Hindi puwedeng ako lang ang magsimula, dapat kayo rin ang maging simula.

Pangalawang rason, sinumang tatakbo, tumatakbo o magiging pangulo ng ating bansa, hindi puwedeng nakatadena ang kamay at paa sa isang partido. Hindi puwedeng nakaposing ang mata at nakabusal ang bibig. Dahil kung ganyan po ang mangyayari, dating gawi na naman. Kapag gamto, papasano pa maresesolbahan ang mga problema ng ating bansa?

Para po sa akin, hindi dapat idikta ng isang partido ang galaw ng sinumang tatakbo. Dahil kung ganoon, papasano niya mapapanagot ang mga tiwali sa gobyerno kung sila ay kagrupo o kasama niya? Papasano niya ibabasura ang pork barrel at ipabubuwal ang line item budgeting kung kasama niya ay puro kongresista at senador?

Papasano niya ipagtatanggol ang mga security guard, janitor, at clerk kung hindi niya mapagtatalunan na hindi magamit sa mga taong ito ang kontraktuwalisasyon sa paggawa? Papasano niya tiiyakin sa ang pulis at sundalo ay para sa tratahong pulis at sundalo at hindi bodyguard o tagasuksa ng pinto o tagabitbit ng bayong ng asawa ng opisyal o heneral?

Papasano niya tiiyakin na ang mga ambassador natin sa iba't ibang parte ng mundo ay hindi magsasilbing tour guide lamang ng congressman kundi magsasilbi sa mga OFWs sa kinakailangan ang kanilang tulong? Papasano, halimbawa, magagawa 'yan ng sinumang magiging pangulo kung siya ay nakatali at nakakadena? Papasano niya isamyendahan at ibabasura ang oil deregulation law para magpantay man lansang ang inayaman at mahirap?

Ang mayaman kumpanya ng langis, puwedeng magtaas ng presyo kahit kailan at kung ayaw nitong ibaba, hindi puwede. Ang mahirap na bayan ng dyip, kailangang magpaalam muna sa isang ahensiya ng gobyerno bago siya magtaas ng kita o pamasahe. Kung puwede ang mayaman, dapat mas puwede ang mahirap. Kung bawal sa mahirap, dapat mas bawal sa mayaman.

Pangatlo po at higit sa lahat, ako ay lumilisan sa aking partido **dahil naniniwala ako na mas malalanew ko ang dapat na gawin at papel na dapat gampanan kaysay ng daratieng na halalan.** Sa pagkakataong ito at sa maimong oras na ito, hindi bilang miyembro ng sinumang partido, hindi bilang kasama ng sinumang tao, kung hindi ako lamang po, bilang ako, nais kong magpasalamat sa lahat ng nandito ngayong araw.

Nais ko pong magpasalamat sa lahat ng mga Bikolano, sa lahat ng kabataan, at sa lahat po ng nanniwala at nagtiwala, at ang tanging hiling ko po sa inyo ay bigyan ako ng kaunti pang panahon para makapagpasya.

Ako bilang ako. At hindi dinidiktahan o sinasabihan ninuman.

Nais kong pakumpitan ito sa mga nang sa gayon ay mapatunayan ko rin sa aking sarili na ito ay ginagawa ko para sa mga tansang rason. **Hindi para sa anumang interes. Hindi para sa sinumang malaking tao. Kung hindi para sa inyo at para sa sambayanan.**

Paumanhin at panalhan ang aking kandidatu. Sana ay ipalang ninyo at ibigay ninyo rin sa akin bilang ako.

Sen. Chiz Escudero

Ebdane widens 2010 race: No turning back

From page A1

"I stand as the candidate with the first-hand working knowledge of how government really works and the track record to get things done," said Ebdane, who resigned last month from the Cabinet.

He denied allegations that he was a wealth administration candidate out to demobilize the May elections, dismissing such insinuations as the work of people "having a sophomore."

When asked about reports that Ramos now backed his candidacy, Ebdane said he had informed the former President of his intention to run and was hoping for his endorsement.

Warmth: Credible endorser

"I told him I was running. I was his aide since 1972 and he has helped me account," Ebdane said. "There is still no endorsement. (but) I hope and pray ... We need that endorsement because he (Ramos) is credible."

Ebdane, the new slate of the Philippine Labor and Peasant Party, said he will did not have all the funds but added that he already had those nationwide organizations working for his candidacy "from the national to the barangay level."

"I have many organizations working for me. I don't know about the others. They might have the political party but I don't know if they have the organization. In my long service in government, we have gained many friends," Ebdane said.

Jose Malvar Villegas, president of the party that Ebdane said was registered with the Commission on Elections, said the group was also active in the formation of Lakas-Tao, Ramos' political party, in the early 1990s before it morphed into the ruling Lakas-NUCD coalition during the Ramos administration.

"For every peso that (other candidates) will spend, I will only spend 10 to 15 centavos because my organizations are already in place. They have the provisions for deployment, accommodation, transportation, the crowd, so there's no need for lador power," Ebdane said.

'Everybody loves me'

When asked if the armed forces of the Philippines or the Philippine National Police was behind him, Ebdane said: "What I can say is they cannot use the PNP against me because the PNP loves me."

"Even the AFP because they're my friends. Practically everyone ... the ENG, DILG, DPWH. I have no enemies," he added.

Ebdane, however, said it was the party chairman of the ruling Lakas-Kampi coalition who wanted him to leave the Cabinet, not President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"There was no distinction between me and my President. It was not the President who wanted me to leave but members of the administration party," he said.

"If they do not want you any longer, why would you stay? So, I respectfully tendered my resignation. But he (Arroyo) asked me if members of the family no longer want you, not personally your mother but the others on this side," he said.

"In politics, you can't agree all the time . . . I cannot be a member of the administration party because that's closed already," he added.

He still calls me 'Sir'

Nevertheless, Ebdane said he remained a "friend" of Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro, the administration standard-bearer.

"We are friends and I respect him. I address him (Teodoro) respectfully and admire me. When we speak in such ethics, he still calls me 'Sir.' We are like brothers," Ebdane said.

Ebdane also noted that he had also "looked after" Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, the Liberal Party standard-bearer, when he served under the Department Security Group during the time of the late President Corazon Aquino.

Others who have announced their plans to run for president are Sen. Manny Villar, former President Joseph Estrada, environment activist Nicanor Perlas and Congress City Governor JC de los Reyes.

No one is clean

Ebdane, however, said he felt that he was the "strongest" among the announced presidential candidates.

"I will win. I fight to win. Some people are trying to portray themselves as immaculately white, but no one has the moral ascendancy to say that they are clean. Nobody can say it," Ebdane said, adding that he has not made a good showing in the surveys because he had only announced his intention to run recently.

He added in jest that even if the presidential aspirants engaged in a fist run, he would win.

"I'm the only competitive among them and I don't intend to be a politician all my life. If we get lucky in 2010, and we will get lucky in 2010, I'll serve until 2016. After that, I will let the next generation take over," Ebdane said.

He said he already had a "credible" male vice presidential candidate in mind but the announcement came too early. He said his party would also field a full Senate slate.

"Just wait for the next chapter. When we announce something, we only do it once and not 'one step forward, one step backward,'" Ebdane said.

Before going to Manila Hotel for the convention, Ebdane said a **wreath at the monument of revolutionary hero Andres Bonifacio** at Monday's Liwasang Bonifacio. The police put the crowd of party members present at around 200.

FORMER Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane is proclaimed standard bearer of the Philippine Labor and Peasant Party in next year's presidential election. He says after decades of service, mostly as a soldier, it still is a "sin of omission" not to run for president. AP PHOTO

GMA urged to run as Gibo's VP

From page A1

change all of that by running as his vice president because members will then think they can vote it all and vote yes," Suarez said in a phone interview.

Ms. Arroyo is also rumored to be gunning for a congressional seat in her home province of Pampanga next year with an eye on becoming the House Speaker and spearheading moves in Congress to amend the Constitution.

"But this plan will only put out if Gibo wins. So we believe that only by running for vice president can she remove the specter of the party and its coalition and dissension in the ranks administration," Suarez said.

He said the ruling coalition would hold an executive committee meeting in Pampanga where he would raise his proposal. The President will preside over the meeting, which would also tackle the party's national convention on Nov. 19.

Greatly exaggerated

"We have to be pragmatic to politics. If the President herself is the best one for the job, why not her? She is still young and she knows that it's hard to take politics out of her system that easily. It also is really perceived to be an irreparable to her critics to return, why are they afraid of her running?" Suarez said.

But Suarez and other party officials said that talk of the ruling coalition's demise at this early juncture is greatly exaggerated.

Suarez saw the movements in the political arena as realignments rather than defections.

"We are the biggest party in the land and naturally we will have candidates in all areas, including those where we have our own. Those who left will not cause us another party, that is just how politicians," he said.

Reggie Velasco, Lakas-Kampi executive director, said that the party would rather have members in the local level who would support its national ticket rather than have members who were torn between their party and their old loyalties.

"Lakas and Kampi are existing party new parties and some of our members are either Lakista or Kampinalan before and they are perceived to have the foundations by 2010. We believe we can have 50 percent of all incumbent congressmen, governors, and mayors on our side by 2013 and that will still be formidable," Velasco said.

'Bigger, stronger'

Roy Sequera, another Lakas-Kampi executive director, shrugged off the reported massive defections to the Liberal Party (LP) and Nacionalista Party (NP).

"There's no exodus. On the contrary, we are getting bigger and stronger because of the entry of more incumbent representatives, governors and mayors," Sequera said in a text message. He said those who had jumped ship were "insignificant."

The former LP lawmakers were Representatives Alvin Amdoval (Maguindanao), Magtanggol Gunigundo (Valenzuela), Mary Mitzi Cajayon-Uy (Caloocan), Glen Chong (Malabon), Reynaldo Uy (Western Samar), Rodolfo Valencia (Oriental Mindoro), Solomon Chungalao (Baguio), and Jose Antonio Sison (Dasol City).

Reappointed Supreme Court Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales, Jean Abbas (Bataan) and Jacobo Jesus Benavidez (Guimaras) are expected to further boost the ruling party's ranks. "Nothing to worry about," Sequera said.

Defections strictly local

Administration officials yesterday admitted the movement of each as exodus, but maintained that it had nothing to do with the upcoming presidential race or President's poor survey results.

"The problem is not Gibo. These defections are strictly local," said Mayor Honorio Dario, president of the League of Municipalities in the Philippines.

Gabriel Claudio, Lakas-Kampi secretary general, admitted that the party was expecting more members to consider political parties.

He he insisted that such movements were the "natural" result of liberated consequence of party structures and felt sure from the party's selection process for local candidates."

Claudio also cited food over the reported defection of Binalonan Mayor Alberto Lim and Carlos Gov. Rosario "Nyong" Martinez to the LP.

He said that Lim was a re-signed member of Joseph Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino while Martinez was an LP member to begin with. (Mallari has under the administration's banner in the 2007 elections.)

In a text message, Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco, denied that he had defected to the LP saying "I still remain loyal to my party and support our official candidates."

Pampanga congressional fight may pit Gloria against half-sister

From page A1

ed on our main proposal more than a week ago," she said.

Paulino said that he said his supporters in the local government consider his brother-in-law "true Macapagal," referring to the good attributes of her late father, President Diosdado Macapagal.

The looming showdown is being dubbed as "Macapagal versus Arroyo," he said. Other Macapagalans, he added, were also courting University of the Philippines economist Randy David, in case Mr. Arroyo's ego gets fight.

Legacy of good governance

The 69-year-old Salgado said the win not opposed to making the LP absentee since there is a Liberal like her father. But she said this would have to be "through merit and not by force."

"I need to consider my health, my family, the work I do in the church, the sense of what my father's relatives and friends think about this. And of course, there's dad's legacy," she told the Inquirer.

Salgado, a cancer survivor, said that it might be Arroyo's last younger brother, who should answer the doubts or the promises.

"My dad said to should be Ate who should be in politics to continue his good name. But Ate agreed to give way to Mikey," she said, referring to Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, the President's eldest son who is serving a second term in Congress.

The chance for Ms Arroyo to run in Congress came after one of her former political advisers, retired Chief Supt. Orlando Mercado.

As the President was handing out relief goods to Lahar in September, Mercado distributed leaflets urging Ms Arroyo to seek a seat in Congress. There has been no public statement from her on Macapagal's bid.

Mercado's move also irked Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, the President's eldest son who is serving a second term in Congress.

44 visits so far

Ms Arroyo has visited her home district 44 times since February. Its mayors there have expressed support for her possible congressional run. But the President continues to be mum about her political plans after her term ends next June.

There are no legal impediments for Ms Arroyo to serve in Congress, said her lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, who urged the media to wait for the Dec. 1 deadline of the filing of candidacies.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said mid-yesterday that she was convinced Ms Arroyo would run for Congress.

"What possible reason will you have for going so many times to a certain locality where you are already supported by the greatest majority of the people as a native daughter," Santiago said.

"I am afraid all roads lead to Lahar, Pampanga, as far as President Arroyo is concerned," she added.

It could be demeaning

Asked why Ms Arroyo is doing this, Santiago said it could perhaps probably did not want to retire from public service.

The senator dismissed claims that Ms Arroyo was running for Congress so she could evade potential boosters after escaping several impeachment attempts for corruption. She said that members of Congress did not have immunity from suits.

"But it's probably by her stature as congresswoman or speaker, she might influence majority of the House against any suit that might rise against her," Santiago said.

But Sen. Jinkee Arroyo said in the same program that it would be "threatening" for the President to seek a congressional seat.

With a report from Christine D. Avendaño

More Sports on A29 to A32

Late SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

No-nonsense Giants rip Texters

KOMPEL Addaoui (left) of Purefoods wards off Tanqueen Crumpet of Talk 'N' Text as teammate Mon Fernandez prepares to shoot. ANDY ZAPATA

By Marc Anthony R. Cuadillo

DICO MAKESHOOTER CAME UP WITH THREE CARBIS SHOES and James Yap struck hardest in the stretch as Purefoods regained Talk 'N Text, 108-102, to get back in the upper half of the EFC-Hon Philippine Cup standings at the Araneta Coliseum.

Shareholder, the second overall choice in the last rookie draft, scored 20 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and had four dishes to Pero Cansino, Jason Castro and Yap to give Coca-Cola which Coach Nenet Gregorio described as a "lesson in humility."

"Going back to our last game, I thought we were so arrogant," Gregorio said after the Texters' Jolley Gamboa rose to 5-1.

"It was a lesson in humility for us. I told them that we will do a little celebration after the game. I looked at the tape of our last game (against Coca-Cola) and we looked like a bunch of high school players celebrating after each made shot.

"Our job is to win as many games as possible, not just some (games) in particular games."

In the second game, Cyrus Baguio squeezed the Barangay Ginebra for the second straight night as the Gin Kings blasted Sachsida Makalintal, 86-77, to rise to 4-1 and deal the Elasto Painters their ninth straight loss.

Baguio hit 17 points and had six assists—both teamhighs—coming off the bench as Ginebra proved too tough even without Jaypee Helterbrand and Marc Cagurian.

Six players scored at least 11 points for Purefoods, with Rupert Yap also contributing 10 rebounds and Jondan Salvador adding nine points on top of 10 boards.

Harvey Carey paced the defending champion Tropang Texters, who dropped to a level 2-2 mark, with 20 points. Mac Cardona contributed 19 and Jimmy Alapag chipped in 16 while dishing out five assists.

Marc Pingris also played great, shooting 12 points and collecting seven boards, including a rip-in of a James Yap miss with 68 seconds to go which made it 103-98.

Purefoods, mired in the pressure as one of the tougher teams, got sidetripped, 93-78, by a then-winless Coca-Cola even which even played minus Ali Shaikna.

Interestingly, the victory was the fifth straight for the Giants against the former-losing back to back seasons.

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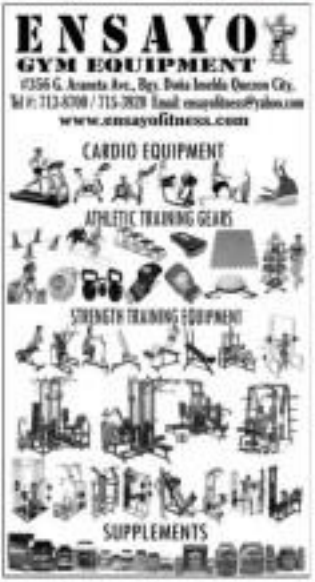

Holcim/ITF qualifying: Arevalo stays in the hunt

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FORMER TOP NATIONAL PLAYER CZARINA Mae Arevalo turned back Katharina Lehnert of Germany 2-6, 7-5, 6-2, yesterday and stayed in the hunt for a slot in the main draw of the Holcim ITF Women's Circuit Week 1 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Now based in Thailand, the 24-year-old two-time PCA Open champion was unplayed by the power-hitting German in the first set, but came back strong in the next two sets aided by her familiarity of the surface and the afternoon heat.

She will now take on Lee Pei-chi of Chinese Taipei in a bid to secure a berth in the tournament proper of the $10,000 event, which could fast-bet up against the present crop of national players.

The country's Southeast Asian Games-bound seniors—Anne Christine Remonde and sister Anna-Clarice, Rita Zulueta and the comebacking Shaira Fernandez—all made it to the tournament's main draw as wild-card entries.

Lee bumped off Filipina Marivel Bolila, 6-2, 6-4, to set up a duel with Arevalo in the courtesy supported by Holcim, JUST Sweet, Plateau and Technikflor balls.

Those of the bottom age group players, Marian Jade Capadocia, Hillary de Guzman and Maureen Mae Oliveros, earlier bowed to foreign rivals.

Chinese Taipei's Chou Yen-ling shredded the Dalaguete Panthoons multiple gold winner Capadocia, 6-2, 6-1.

Another Taiwanese, Liu Chi-chu, booted out De Guzman, 6-2, 6-2, while Indy's Linda Dale eliminated the young Oliveros, 6-3, 6-2.

The other winners were Japan's Shiho Hatta, Brown's Rita Jung-Hua and Yen Ju-Hsin, India's Ashwini Easwaramurthi, American Fiona Ehrig, Hong Kong's Lam Po-Kwan, China's Zhang Shu-xian and He Sirui, Chinese Taipei's Miao Pei-Lynn, Thailand's Yuwapirn Thongdeng Fon and Germany's Jessica Siboehlmkopp.

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Bagatsing, Cebu ace Gabas head PBL rookie prospects

LA SALLE STARS Hyram Bagatsing and Cebuano dasher Marcio Gabas lead over 100 aspirants who will show their wares in the Philippine Basketball League (PBL) rookie camp set at 8 a.m. tomorrow at the Ateneo Blue Eagles gym in Mandaluyong.

BAGATSING

PBL executive director Butch Maestrado said the six-hour session will allow the coaches to evaluate the participants' skills before the draft tentatively set on Dec. 12.

In a bid to develop younger talents, the league has opened the draft only to players aged 23 years old and below by Jan. 1, 2009.

San Beda's Billy Abiñi, Emilio Aguinaldo College's Wilko Wolhelm, Adamson's Alan Dominic Sarsoza and FEAtm rogers Anthony Lao and Joshua Cubilla are among action in the season kick-off next month.

Maestrado said camp participants must bring both dark and light jerseys. Walk-in players may join the camp, but early applicants will get priority.

Interested players may still e-mail their applications to pbl2010draft@gmail.com with the subject line "PBL 2010 Draft."

Application must include the following information: name, address, contact numbers, date of birth, place of birth, citizenship and educational background.

—Jonnalyn M. Reyes

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WHITE CHRISTMAS
A man arranges his display of Christmas trees for sale on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City.

NBI clears Flores' doc

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) has cleared of any liability the doctor who performed cosmetic surgery on slain robbery gang leader Alvin Flores as it asked the Department of Health (DOH) to ensure the protection of medical workers against criminals who wanted to hide their true identities.

Raul Lazula, NBI deputy director for intelligence services (DIOS), the other day said no charges would be filed against Dr. Emmanuler Pedrucia, a licensed cosmetic surgeon and owner of Clinica de Antipolo, for the operation he conducted to alter Flores' features.

Lazula explained that when Flores consulted Pedrucia's services, he used another name, Ulysses Carlo Cruz Chavez, making it impossible for the doctor to know his true identity.

He added that Pedrucia also could not be held liable because when he operated on Flores on Sept. 20, he was unaware that the latter was a wanted man.

Lazula, meanwhile, said that other cosmetic surgeons could be faced with a similar dilemma unless the DOH were to take steps to protect them against criminals hiding from the law.

"The surgeons, doctors or medical staff become instruments of these unscrupulous hardened criminals to alter their faces and hide their identities as part of their efforts to avoid being caught by law enforcers. These medical practitioners are not aware that one of their patients is a criminal because they [use] different names to avoid detection," he said.

Pedrucia earlier told the NBI that he did not know that his patient was the leader of a notorious robbery gang which was responsible for several heists, including the Oct. 18 robbery on the Iloilo route of Greenhill 5 mall in Makati City.

The doctor said that Flores had identified himself as Chavez, a distant homosexual, and had told him that he wanted to have his features altered so that he would look more feminine.

He added that a three-man team of surgeons operated on Flores who underwent a nose lift, a temporal eyelift and eyelid surgery. Flores was killed in an encounter with NBI agents in Cebu City on Dec. 29.

DID YOU KNOW

IN THE first seven months of this year, the Metro Rail Transit, Light Rail Transit and Magsaysay had the highest number of passengers in July (15 million for the MRT, 12.3 million for the LRT and 5.8 million for the Magsaysay). The railway systems had the lowest number of passengers in April (10.6 million for the MRT, 10.2 million for the LRT and 5.1 million for the Magsaysay).

Cyril L. Bonalaste, Inquirer Research

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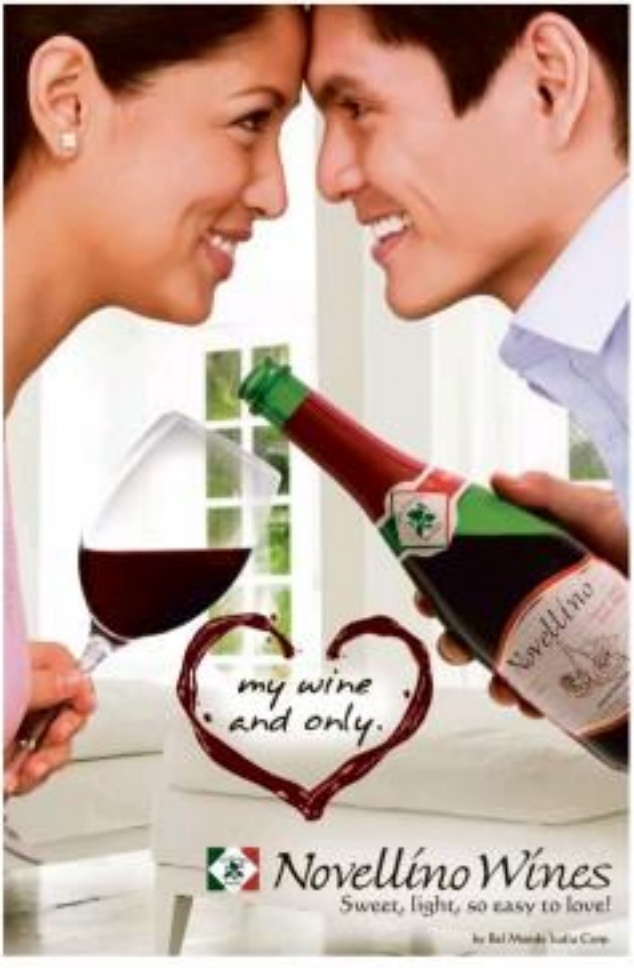

Citizen's call

0918-8965566

Wanted: Wise spenders

WHY DOESN'T the government start making a subway or big canal from Laguna Bay to Manila Bay so that water would flow to the open sea instead of flooding the streets? Economists have no taxing, no toll plans to earn. Spend your funds wisely, don't use it all on roadwork.

Jon, 60, Pasig City

Street or parking lot?

MAGINA Street in UP Village, Diliman is full of coaching kid with purposes, tricycles and food stalls blocking sidewalks and almost half of the street.

Shanti Dorai, UP Village, Quezon City

Sidewalk no place for pedestrians

WHY ARE carinderias allowed to take over the sidewalks of Roxas and Leo Ma. Guarrero Streets in Malate? Nothing remains of the curb of their driver-customers, parked on the street, pedestrians have to walk in the middle of the road.

Marie Arbasto, 21, Manila

Implement helmet policy, please

LTO MUST initiate/supervise, please implement the helmet policy here in Dapaon, Calinoan City, Barangay 108. Almost all of the riders here don't wear helmets and worse, they have more than two back riders.

Rose L. Dionisio, 52, Caloocan City

Firecracker ban urged

ATTENTION, all Metro Manila mayors. Please implement a total ban on firecrackers on Christmas and New Year's Eve because this is not for the health of both humans and animals. It also causes noise pollution.

Mhel de Leon, 40, Quezon City

QUIET, PLEASE

Pani Garcia, 32, of Makati City writes: "MMDA, parang pa-isang pangungun ng ingay ni Erap! Sobrang maingay ng MRT! Ayoko 'tlaga! Maghihingi po sana dami ang aming ng ingay ng mga pasaway na bus drivers. (Can the MMDA just do a sign saying no blowing of horns under the MRT? Ayoko 'tlaga! There's too much noise in the area because of errant bus drivers who blow their horns relentlessly.)"

Perennial flooding due to diggings

MELAMIC town experiencing perennial flooding in Batasan Street in Pasay City for the past four months since sewage company dug up the street.

Joel Cleto, 43, Pasay City

Sand clogging drainage system

MANILA Water placed pipes on Mabini cor Gen. Luna Streets in Barangay Poblacion, Quezon City. It seems that the sand it uses to cover diggings flow into the drainage during a heavy downpour. This can cause the clogging of drainage resulting in flooding on Mabini and R. Luna Streets.

Marialena, 27, Quezon City

Unlighted flyover too dark for motorists

THE STREET lights on the flyover of Katipunan Boundary ED are not open at night. The distance is too dark for motorists, especially if the lights of billboards in the areas are not on. Are the street lights for decorative purposes only?

Rhere, 30, Makati City

Barangay watchmen protecting criminals?

THE STRETCH from near Lotus C. Phase, Blk. C-lotus in Bicutan and beyond are places that should be avoided by shoppers. They are full of pickpockets and snatchers who are under the protection of some barangay (bondo watchmen) in the area.

Apostol Felix, 57, Bataan

More illegal vendors on overpass

ILLEGAL as jaw-jaw ang illegal vendor sa overpass ng Balintawak. Reported na po sa mga DILG, TU, Barangay late yung dasuran ng tyan ! There are now more illegal vendors on the Balintawak overpass. This was already reported on Oct. 12. The situation has gotten more crowded.

Catbalo, 40, Upper Bicutan, Taguig

Scary overpass

EVERY afternoon after work, I pass by the pedestrian overpass going down to Libertad. I always notice a woman (sometimes talking) on the left side who has made the overpass her resting area. Now, there is a man with her. They look scary. Please have someone check on the area.

Gary, 42, Mandaluyong City

Razon picks Isko as running mate but ...

By Jeannette I. Andrade

JUST ONCE AHEAD OF THE formal filing of certificates of candidacy, former presidential adviser on the peace process Jesus Dureza Jr.'s bid to become Manila's next mayor has hit a minor snag.

At yesterday's Balitaan sa Tinapayan forum, Razon said he would be running with Vice Mayor Isko Moreno (Francisco Domagoso in real life).

"Isko and I have talked about this," he told reporters.

This was despite Moreno's announcement during his 36th birthday celebration on Dec. 24 at the Rizal Coliseum football stadium that he would be the standard bearer of Lakas-Kampi Mayor Alfredo Lim, who is seeking reelection next year.

A source privy to the talks between Moreno and Razon told the Inquirer that the two met some time in February before the latter made up his mind to run for mayor.

"Sir [Moreno] said yes to Razon when asked if he would [like] to be his running mate," the source who asked for anonymity said.

Tonight for tomorrow, Moreno told the Inquirer that there was nothing wrong with Razon's choice of him as a running mate although he stressed that he would be seeking reelection next year.

According to Moreno, his pairing between Manileños, has officially chosen Lim and himself to be its official candidates in the mayoral and vice mayoral race.

"We cannot stop other candidates from claiming me as a running mate. Anybody can say that and I cannot stop them," Moreno told the listeners, adding that Atienza could also be down in being his running mate.

"What is important is the official pronouncement," he said.

He confirmed, however, that he and Razon did meet and that he had agreed to be his running mate. But at the same time, he stressed that he would stand by his decision to run and the promise he made to Lim to be his running mate.

Meanwhile, Razon said he would be filing his certificate of candidacy with the Commission on Elections on Nov. 27.

This will be his first time to run for public office, something he sees as his edge over his rivals—Lim and Environment Secretary Lito Atienza...who both served several terms as Manila mayors.

"They each have (several) years of experience [as mayor] but neither of them had a vision for the city," Razon said of the two officials in a previous interview with the Inquirer.

He added that Atienza focused on beautifying the city while Lim was now concentrating on re-visiting what his predecessor had done, thus doubling the city's expenses.

"There are a lot of things Lim may have done or the city but in reality, these are still issues[the city] faces like the slow bureaucracy, the lack of health care and education," Razon said.

He added that as chief of the then Presidential Peace Adviser, he served under both Lim and Atienza. This, he said, allowed him to observe their performances in office and also provided him with an idea of the city's primary problems...and solutions.

"Manila had a good plan of resurrecting Manila but it was all on the surface. He was not able to touch on the basic needs of health, education, livelihood, and housing," he said.

Razon, who grew up on Dr. Ignacia Street in Sta. Cruz, said he aspired to bring back the Manila of the '50s and '60s when the city was truly the national's capital and business hub.

"Either sisters or Mrs. Imelda Marcos was the last person to have that kind Manila. Other cities progressed and developed and Manila was left as urban decay," he said.

He reminisced that during that period, Manila was the center of business, particularly it tourism and finance.

"Why can't we bring that back and make Manila the cosmopolitan as it should be?" This question, he said, was what drove him to seek the mayor's seat.

But Razon said he would be bringing in Manila a difference kind of politics. "More on survivors, beyond esponsa, no personal gain," he added.

TV host's wife, sis face raps

THE QUEZON CITY PROSECUTOR's Office has recommended the filing of charges of estafa and illegal recruitment of workers for overseas employment against Annabelle Miranda, wife of television host-comedian Joe Marcelo.

At the same time, Assistant City Prosecutors Ronald Torrijos directed Annabelle's sister, Angeline Ng, to answer charges although he approved the filing of one count of inducing them themselves to, at the said housemaid cleark law, against her.

No charges were recommended against Joe Marcelo, one of the hosts of the noontime TV show, "Eat Bulaga."

The two were called up in the complainant's petition but he refused to comment.

On the other hand, Mahlee Chua-Ngat, the producer of the noontime show, said, "Eat Bulaga will not issue a statement because it's a personal case."

The charges against Annalyn and her sister was based on a complaint filed by jeweler Vicky Belo, who said she lost the women bought more than P2 million worth of jewelry from her.

Belo claimed that Miranda paid for the jewelry with postdated checks which bounced and that Angie her repeated demands, the latter failed to settle her obligations. *Nancy Carvajal*

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIDDING

In accordance with Republic Act 9184, the **National Food Authority (NFA)** wishes to announce that it will be conducting a bidding on **December 1, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** at the NFA Council Hall, 4th Floor, Philippine Sugar Center Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City to all interested and eligible for the supply of **ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND (100,000) MT 25% moisture long grain white rice WELL MILLED**. In the bid blueprint, certain requirements and conditions must be complied with. NFA's bidding will be in appropriate budgetary/corporate resources of P1,575.00/ bag.

Interested bidder are required to submit quotations in SEPARATE OPEN Envelope each containing the following documents: (1) Valid and current Mayor's/Business Permit; (2) Valid and current PhilGEPS Registration Number; (3) Tax Clearance per Executive Order 398, series of 2005; (4) Omnibus Sworn Statement; (5) Bid Security; (6) Duly accomplished Price Schedule; (7) Duly accomplished Technical Specifications; (8) Duly accomplished Delivery Schedule; (9) Duly accomplished Bidding Documents; (10) Duly accomplished Bid Form; (11) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (12) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (13) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (14) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (15) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (16) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (17) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (18) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (19) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (20) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (21) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (22) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (23) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (24) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (25) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (26) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (27) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (28) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (29) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (30) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (31) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (32) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (33) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (34) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (35) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (36) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (37) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (38) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (39) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (40) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (41) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (42) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (43) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (44) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (45) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (46) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (47) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (48) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (49) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (50) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (51) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (52) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (53) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (54) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (55) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (56) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (57) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (58) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (59) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (60) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (61) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (62) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (63) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (64) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (65) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (66) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (67) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (68) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (69) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (70) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (71) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (72) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (73) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (74) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (75) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (76) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (77) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (78) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (79) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (80) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (81) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (82) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (83) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (84) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (85) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (86) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (87) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (88) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (89) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (90) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (91) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (92) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (93) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (94) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (95) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (96) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (97) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (98) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (99) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin; (100) Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin.

The pre-bidding conference will be held on **November 16, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **NFA Council Hall, 4th Floor, Philippine Sugar Center Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City.**

Submission of bids will be on **December 1, 2009** between 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the **NFA Council Hall, 4th Floor, Philippine Sugar Center Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City.** Opening of bids will start at exactly **10:00 a.m.**

All bidders are required to read and comply with the instructions to bidders.

The **National Food Authority** reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals at any time prior to contract award and may accept bid proposal in the interest of the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ALBERTO J. JUSTOL**
Deputy Administrator and
Chairman, BAC

Christmas starts in Marikina on Nov. 14

By DJ Yap

FOR MARIKINA CITY FOLKS, next week Tropical Storm "Ondoy" can stop Christmas.

The yuletide season in Manila, its City will officially begin on Nov. 14 with the launching of its much anticipated "Christmas festival," according to city officials.

The two-month festival will start with the inauguration of "Tianggo sa Ilog" (night bazaar along the river) at 4 p.m. on the floating stage of the Marikina River Park, officials said.

Mayor Marides Fernando will lead the launch of the festival through a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by cultural program.

At the Christmas bazaar, some 700 stalls will sell a wide array of products, including shoes, ready-to-wear apparel, furniture and home accessories, gift and novelty items, kitchen gadgets, mobile phones, electronic gadgets, and fans local.

Officials said they hope that the night bazaar would help speed up the recovery of the local economy after it suffered severe financial losses from the destruction brought by Ondoy.

Aside from the bazaar, the Marikina Christmas festival will feature nightly shows and Christmas displays on the Animal Park of the Marikina River Park.

MetroBriefs

Trader dies hours after gun attack

A 36-YEAR-OLD businessman died yesterday morning, days after he was shot in the head by one of three gunmen in front of his medical supply store in the city, Senator Manuel A. Roxas II Avenue, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Pasay City.

The victim identified as Mr. Jose Bautista, owner of Mediscan Trading Inc., was pronounced dead at around 7 a.m. yesterday due to a gunshot wound in the head at Metropolitan Hospital. SPO2 Ramon Paul Javier of the Manila Police District homicide section said Medina was attacked in front of his store on Roxas Avenue around 11:40 a.m. Saturday. Based on witnesses' accounts, the victim had just alighted from his car and was giving his workers instructions when the three gunmen in motorcycle suddenly approached him. One of them pulled out a .45-cal. pistol, shot the victim and escaped with his companions on a blue Toyota Vios without any license plates. Javier said that they were looking into two possible motives for the killing: personal grudge and business.

Jeannette I. Andrade

1 killed, 2 hurt in shooting incident

A MAN was killed while two persons were hurt when an unidentified man shot them on a footbridge in Fairview City on Saturday night. PO2 Johnny Margate of the Fairview investigation division said Joseph Edver died from a gunshot wound in the chest while his friend, Herman Nisuela, 26, was still undergoing treatment. Witnesses claimed that around 8:30 p.m. the other night, the two victims were engaged in a heated argument with another man on the Fairview Flyover when the latter suddenly shot them. A woman, also identified as Liberty Nuevo, was hit on the left leg by a stray bullet and was still recuperating at a hospital. The gunman's .45-cal. pistol with six bullets was recovered by the police who said they would check its serial number to find the owner.

Alison M. Lopez

Motivation seminar on Nov. 14, 21

A MOTIVATION seminar to be hosted by voice therapy and rehabilitation specialist Josephine Gomez will be offered on Nov. 14 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at The Corporate Blast Training Room, Mega Plaza, 0636 Biak-na-bato Corner Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City and on Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Mandeleño Hotel in Bacolod, Cebu City. The seminar, called "Motivating yourself and others," aims to bolster one's level of being motivated to be able to finalize objectives. Founder of The Gomez's Time voice clinic, the leading referral clinic of ENT specialists for cases of voice disorders, Gomez is also a freelance journalist, a literary writer, a theater actor and filmmaker. For information, call 6371006, 7888787 or e-mail mind_and_voice@yahoo.com.

GOOD WEATHER AHEAD

With no weather disturbance expected in the next few days, workers put a billboard back up along the South Luzon Expressway

Makati City to hold job fair for residents, nonresidents

By Allison M. Lopez

A MEGA JOB FAIR FEATURING the various industries in Makati will be conducted by the city government tomorrow to provide more employment opportunities for residents.

More than 60 companies and employment agencies will participate in the job fair with the theme, "Habang May Hanapbuhay, May Pag-asa, May Solusyon Pa," to be held at the city hall quadrangle between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Mayor Jejomar Binay said the mega job fair was one way of showing the city government's continuing commitment to provide work opportunities for job seekers, including out of school youth, students, people aged between 40 and 45 and even nonresidents.

Among the companies and establishments that will take part in the event are ABS-CBN Star Cinema, Goldilocks Bakeshop, Banco de Oro, United Bank, Timezone, Essen, Cubao Mathematics, Manby and Spencer, Puregold, Chef d' Angelo, DBP Daiwa Inc., Bench Dependents as well as those from the retail, services, outsourcing industries and local employment agencies.

Applicants are advised to bring their resume or bio data and to attach a recent picture.

WORLDBRIEFS

Nato 'friendly fire' kills 7 Afghan soldiers

KABUL, Afghanistan—The Afghan Defense Ministry and local officials in Badghis province said on Saturday that seven members of the Afghan security forces had been killed in a NATO air strike the day before that was part of an effort to catch a beleaguered Afghan and Nato operation against the Taliban. A Nato spokesman confirmed that the seven Afghan officers had been killed, as well as an Afghan civilian working with the Afghan forces. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is investigating whether its videos an "apparent non-response" by the casualties. According to Nato, four ISS soldiers were wounded in the operation against the militants, along with 15 Afghan soldiers, two Afghan police officers and one Afghan civilian working with the troops. If Nato does air support is responsible for the casualties, it would be one of the worst cases of friendly fire in the course of the eight-year war. AFP

Suicide bomb attack in Pakistan kills 12

PESHAWAR, Pakistan—A suicide bomber apparently targeting a Pakistani security convoy exploded market Sunday in northwest Pakistan, killing the bomber and 11 other people and injuring dozens, police said. The morning attack took place in the town of Kohat, about 16 km south of the tribal northwest city of Peshawar. The mayor, Abdul Malik, who had once been a Taliban supporter, had later switched sides and formed a local militia to help fight the militants. AP

US House narrowly passes health care reform bill

WASHINGTON—Handing President Barack Obama a hard-fought victory, the House narrowly approved a sweeping overhaul of the nation's health care system on Saturday, advancing legislation that the Democrats said could be their defining social policy achievement. After a daylong clash with Republicans over what has been a Democratic goal for decades, lawmakers voted 220-215 to approve a plan that would cost $1.1 trillion over 10 years and that Democrats said would provide relief to Americans struggling to buy or hold on to health insurance. Democrats were forced to make major concessions on insurance coverage for abortions for set-aside passage, a seemingly big compromise for the women's abortion rights advocates in their ranks. Democrats say the measure—paid for through new fees and taxes, and cuts in Medicare—would extend coverage to 36 million people without insurance and create a government health insurance program. AFP

African-Americans assail Obama, say he's 'white power in black face'

WASHINGTON — LIKENING Barack Obama as "white power in black face," hundreds of African-Americans marched on the White House on Saturday in protest policies of the first black US president, and demand that he bring US troops home.

More than 200 people gathered for the first public demonstration by African-Americans against the Obama administration since his historic inauguration in January, and slammed the president for continuing what they described as Washington's "imperialist" agenda around the world.

"We recognize that Barack blames Obama is white power in black face," civil rights activist Omali Yeshitela, chairman of the Black is Back coalition which arranged the protest, called into a megaphone as the group marched outside the transition gates.

"He is a tool of our imperialist enemies and are demand our freedom. And we demand that Obama withdraws all the troops from Afghanistan right now."

Protesters also called for Obama to order troops out of Iraq and to scrap Africom, the controversial year-old United States Africa Command, and demanded "hands off" Venezuela and ends to the Cuba embargo and the Zimbabwe blockade.

Charlie Harris, a New York city councilman and former member of the Black Panthers, rallied Protest newcomers in the mid-1960s and 1970s, attacked the president for turning a cold shoulder to the plight of African-Americans.

"We're not satisfied with him, and ... this hope and change rap has not been a reality for black people," Harris told AFP during the demonstration.

"We are glad that Barack Obama broke up the white male monopoly in the White House, but we were not looking for a change in the occupant of the White House from white to black; we were looking for change in foreign policies and domestic policies," he added.

"To have a black person espousing our just like a white person, that's no easier pair." AFP

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The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Gocoo

More Fort Hoods waiting to happen, observers warn

MUSLIM: Malik Hasan in his 2001 graduation photo.

WASHINGTON—THE CARNAGE at Fort Hood military base, where a Muslim army doctor is accused of killing 13 people in a shooting spree, was a ticking time bomb that could explode again, observers said.

"There's a lot more of this out there, potentially. Anyone coming back from war with PTSD could do the same thing," said Marilyn Clement, a former US Army sergeant who refused to go to Iraq.

"We're talking about eight-to-nine yet unseen bear," Armed 20 percent of the more than 1.5 million US troops who have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder or PTSD, and the US military has come under fire for failing to give soldiers and their families adequate treatment for the condition.

Major Malik Malik Hasan, 39, a psychiatrist and specialist in combat stress who was about to deploy to Afghanistan against his wishes, also wounded 28 people in Thursday's rampage at the sprawling Fort Hood army base in Texas.

"The suspect himself was wounded reborn an officer shot him in the left foot attack, and so he has unconscious in a military hospital speculation started as to why Hasan had opened fire on his fellow soldiers.

Others questioned why the military hadn't noticed that the psychiatrist was himself in need of help.

Hasan reportedly got a "poor" rating while at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, said Ann Wright, a retired US Army colonel and former diplomat, told AFP "one of his chores said he thought the psychiatrist was on as bad shape as he was."

"The man was a psychiatrist and was working with other psychiatrists every day and they failed to notice how deeply disturbed somebody was right in their midst was," said Selena Coppa, an active-duty soldier who is also an activist for Iraq veterans against the War.

Wright, who resigned from the foreign service to protest the US invasion of Iraq in 2003, speculated that Hasan might have cracked after arriving at Fort Hood and seen "those young kids that are going to be deployed soon what he had seen before in Walter Reed, where he saw them as they came back." Hasan worked as a psychiatrist at Walter Reed, where he spent most of his career before shipping out this year to Fort Hood. He was due to be deployed to Afghanistan.

"For the point while he was at Walter Reed he didn't have to face that and now he had to, and he had to do it at a place like Fort Hood where you see hundreds of people deploying every week. I think the reality of what was now facing him just really came on him," Wright said.

Hasan's family has said he repeatedly asked to be discharged and reports have said he did not want to go to Afghanistan to fight fellow Muslims.

"But the military is stretched so thin these days, they're deploying people who have medical conditions that should make them not deployable or even discharged," said Bill Galvin, counseling coordinator at the Center on Conscience and War.

Hasan might have sought a discharge as a conscientious objector, and as an officer it "should have been easier for him to get it," said Galvin.

But he had a major strike against him: no fear from The army had paid for his education.

"When the military has invested a lot in educating and training someone, they are more reluctant to release them," said Galvin.

Researchers, according to Wright, are offering men and women as young as 18 up to $20,000 just to sign up, along with the usual benefit of paying their university tuition.

And they will recruit that they won't object to war which may only compound the resignation of a soldier who got deployment orders.

"Recruiters are saying to kids who have no hope of getting a job because there are no other jobs around, 'I'll give you $20,000,' and don't worry about the war," said Wright.

In the last three months, three soldiers in Fort Hood have refused to deploy to Afghanistan, she added.

But resisting orders requires a strong support network, said Wright, and reports have painted a picture of Hasan as a loner.

Others, who is now a student and serious service, said, "The idea of going in and blowing everyone away as the solution to your problems is a deep expansion. ...I hear this all the time."

"I was talking to this kid who'd been to Iraq three times, his lunch was all messed up and he was about to get out of the military when they stop-loosed him," meaning they extended his service and ordered him to Afghanistan.

"He was in the midst of what I would call a full personality meltdown and he said, 'I'm going to go out and shoot everybody.'" AFP

Officer describes firefight that downed Hasan

KILLEEN, TEXAS—ONE OF two police officers who confronted the alleged Fort Hood killer says he shot Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan before kicking the man's weapon away, handcuffing him and reading the suspect's weird killing spree on a military base.

Sgt. Mark Todd joined Sgt. Kimberly Munley, hailed as a hero for her actions, in a firefight with Hasan that lasted less than a minute. Todd, 42, was not wounded, but the exchange left Munley injured and Hasan critically wounded.

Seconds after Todd arrived on the scene, he said he saw a stale-looking Hasan, his gun drawn and his fingers pointing at people.

"He was firing at people as they were trying to run and hide," Todd said.

That's when Todd, a retired soldier who now works as a civilian police officer at Fort Hood, said he shouted at Hasan.

"I told him stop and drop your weapons. I identified myself as police and he turned and fired a couple of rounds at me. I didn't have him up a wood — he just turned and fired."

There has been confusion since Thursday's rampage about whose bullets actually brought down Hasan, who was shot four times. At first, Munley's supporters said it was her shot to Hasan's arm that leveled him, but Army officials would only say that an investigation was under way.

Munley was down by the time he engaged Hasan, Todd said. He wasn't sure if Munley had wounded the suspect, because "once he started firing at me, I lost track of her."

Todd said he fired his firearm at Hasan. Hasan fired back, Todd said, then slid down against a telephone pole and fell on his back. Todd says he then heard bystanders say "two down, two more."

At first he thought two more shots were two more suspects, but realized they were urging him to fire two more rounds at Hasan, thinking he was still posing a threat.

Todd approached the suspect and saw that he still had a weapon in his hand. Todd kicked away the gun, which he said had a laser-sensing device attached to it.

"He was breathing, his eyes were blinking. You could tell that he was fading out. He didn't say anything. He was just kind of bleeding," said Todd.

Todd handcuffed Hasan and checked to see if he was still alive. "He had a good pulse," said Todd. He also cut off pieces of Hasan's clothes so he could get first aid and received Hasan had gunshot wounds on his side and back.

From the time he got to the scene until Hasan stopped, the whole encounter lasted only about 30-45 seconds, Todd said. "It was pretty intense. There was a lot of people shouting, a lot of people giving directions," he said.

Munley, whose injuries weren't believed to be life threatening, was quite private after the incident. AP

WHAT'S INSIDE
- Ateneo gets back at FEU /A30

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres • Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

- Mickelson rules HSBC by 1 /A31

Pacquiao: Weighty worry hounds Cotto

Pinoy superstar believes Puerto Rican is dieting

By Francis T. J. Ochoa

HOLLYWOOD—GOING BY BOXING LOTTO's website updates, you'd think that the Puerto Rican boxing star is running a very relaxed camp.

Manny Pacquiao isn't convinced, though.

The pound-for-pound king, who has been jovial and worry-free for several training days now, thinks Cotto is still shedding off pounds with about eight days to go before their Nov. 14 fight at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

"I think he's dieting," said Pacquiao.

Several foreign journalists who saw Cotto during his press preview Tuesday think he's even crash dieting.

In contrast, Pacquiao is enjoying the benefits of fighting in a heavier weight—he gets to eat more.

"Because of my training, I need to eat," Pacquiao told reporters after five more rounds of sparring at the Wild Card gym. "We're making sure that I don't go under the weight."

The Filipino icon is expected to start tapering off from his brutally vigorous as he prepares to throw for Las Vegas in one days' time.

Pacquiao normally weighs at 140 pounds, but his weight easily goes down to 136 after training.

He sparred against Orlando Antillon and Fray Heilman Saturday before heading off to an engagement. He was delayed a few minutes because of normal issues at the Wild Card parking area, but the Los Angeles Police Department sent squad cars to solve the problem.

The retreat was eventually dispersed in about an hour, thru related story).

Cotto, meanwhile, in his last two posts on his Twitter account, said he has little worries going into the homestretch of his camp.

"[Day] 46 the home stretch," Cotto posted. The Puerto Rican, who will make his WBO welterweight crown against Pacquiao, was watching an HBO boxing program on the flight. Next day, saying "Today's 24/7 was really good."

Resuming to a self-written Cotto posted in Spanish: "I feel good. I trained hard but I'm very happy."

Pacquiao feels that weight issues favor his bid to become the first fighter to win seven world championships in as many weight divisions, stating how tough it was to meet the super featherweight limit of 130 lb when he dominated that class.

"It has a big effect on a fighter," said Pacquiao. "When a fighter is engaged in a tight battle, it becomes a disadvantage if he had to lose weight before the fight."

Several journalists who watched Cotto pegged the Puerto Rican's weight at 150 to 152 lb. Even Pacquiao's strength and conditioning coach, Mot Arida, believes that Cotto is struggling to make the weight.

But Cotto's own conditioning coach, Phil Landman, said his wards will easily meet the catchweight of 145.

"We'll be fine during the weigh-in," Landman told reporters Tuesday.

With Team Pacquiao anticipating to face Vegas Monday, the boxer is expected to take it easy Sunday and skip his regular jogging schedule.

He will spar four or five more rounds Wednesday before leading a huge convoy through the four-hour road trip to Las Vegas. He already has 149 rounds of sparring done for

FORMY! Pacquiao starts his stretching routine before sparring. AP

Los Angeles police come to control Pacman flock

By Francis T. J. Ochoa

HOLLYWOOD—ONE BY ONE, SQUAD cars of the Los Angeles Police Department arrived at the Wax Street compound of the famed Wild Card gym.

There was a huge fan gimmicky pasture crowd that police officers needed to—and—Saturday afternoon because business tenants inside the same compound were getting bothered off their routine and, well, Manny Pacquiao needed a easy out.

"We're just here to assist with the crowd," an officer said.

Police said one of the business establishments had called for help to deal with the crowd, which is a common sight in the base of the crowd starts leading to the gym-to-the glitzy California district.

At least three squad cars—each carrying two officers—arrived at the scene.

Pacquiao's security actually tried to flow escape the crowd by using motorbikes to decoy. The reporters exited via Wild Card's main entrance and told people that Pacquiao was on his way out.

The plan was to draw the crowd into the main exit where Pacquiao's vehicle was on at the back. But the ploy failed as the crowd patiently covered both exits.

"My had sealed boxes for him to some," a frustrated man said.

One of those who loitered around to—realized himself as a member of the press and as police dispersed the crowd, he tried to sneak past Pacquiao's personal security officers, Bob Stoten, who caught up with him and asked him to leave.

Police eventually yellow-taped the entire compound, cooling off the crowd.

As it turned out, the police also helped clear the area for Pacquiao to lead a convoy out of Vine Street to fulfill yet another public appearance.

As Pacquiao finally managed to make a waiting SUV, the reigning pound-for-pound champion waved to the crowd outside the cordoned-off area, and they responded with loud cheers and applause and several requests for photographs.

THE PACQUIAO billboard in Hollywood is better-lit than that of Kobe Bryant's.

Modest Manny shows who's the real star

By Francis T. J. Ochoa

HOLLYWOOD—OVERLOOKING THE CORner of Sunset Boulevard and Vine Street is a rectangular white billboard featuring an athletic-looking welterweight and wearing an all-sensitive hoodie.

The billboard class, almost unobtrusively from an elevator parking lot that is a stark contrast to the famous boulevard just around the next street bend, the one that shares its name with California's most popular district.

The fan-on the billboard, though, is not an easy to ignore.

In fact, if the billboard wins the intersection of passers-by, it is largely because the face to that of Filipino ring superstar Manny Pacquiao, who is promoting the number sports trivia books as he goes for an unprecedented seventh weight title.

Like its swelling size, the billboard—which has grown to a huge fourteen-by-Kobe-Bryant wall-advertisement—sits in the outer fringes of the shiny Hollywood homage to Pacquiao's fame.

There is the greeting in a nationally televised US talk show, the filming of a commercial with the biggest names of different sports and, lately, the front-page appearance of the respected Time magazine's Asia version.

"I really liked it," said Pacquiao, with a smile that gives off the feeling that he hasn't fully comprehended the impact of his being the master of Time magazine.

That is happened in the midst of his preparations for his October 14 fight with Joel Casamayor in the Wild Card gym.

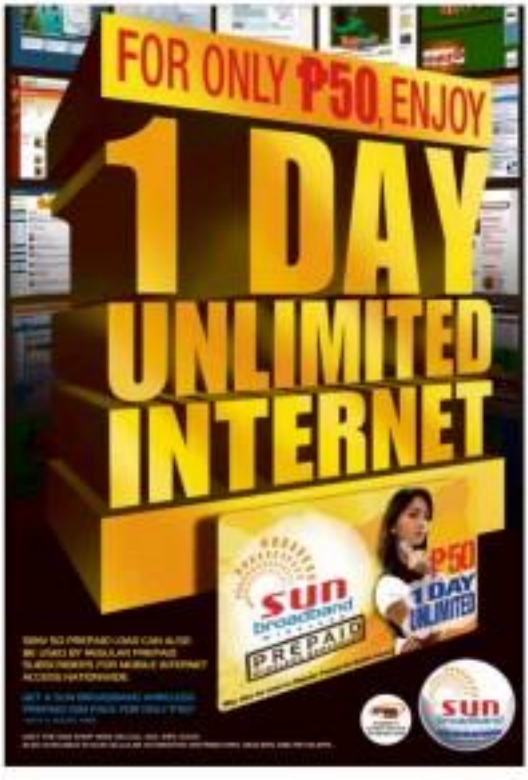
It is not just the hammer-hitting Pinoy to flicker further into a supporting role of the "Hangover" cast's preflight hype.

"It's amazing," Pacquiao said of everything that has happened so far. "I never expected any of this."

His reply echoed his assessment after Time magazine's cover-to-cover.

"I absolutely had no idea that when I started my career in boxing, to provide a better life for myself and my family, that I would now be where I am today and on the cover of Time magazine," Pacquiao told inghamnews.com. "A fighter's dream is to win a world title and gain financial stability like what is happening to me now is the most humbling experience of my life."

Pacquiao is the first boxer in 20 years to be accorded the honor, after Mike Tyson.



POC sounds alarm: Romero's cyclists face Laos ban

By Jose Romero

THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITtee yesterday sounded the alarm over the possible disqualification of the national team in the cycling competitions of the 25th Southeast Asian Games.

This came after the Union Cycliste Internationale reiterated its support for a group of cycling officials which the local Olympic body does not recognize.

The POC backs the faction of businessman-sportsman Wilfredo Romero in the ongoing leadership rift in the sport while the UCI, the world governing body in cycling, endorses the faction of Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham Tolentino.

A few months ago, the UCI affirmed a directive circulated by the Asian Cycling Confederation instructing organizers of regional, continental and global tournaments, including the SEA Games, to accept only the names submitted by Tolentino.

Issued by ACC president Ahn Samuk Wehnh, the directive is certain to doom the entry of the 13-man cycling team assembled by Romero for the Dec. 9 to 18 SEAG in Laos.

"It would be sad if that happens," said POC deputy secretary general Mark Joseph, who confirmed the possible disqualification of the cycling team.

"We have done our share to solve the problem. It's now between the cycling factions to unite for the sake of the country and the sport."

"The solution rests squarely in international competition will only be resolved if both factions unite. Otherwise, they will have problems with all events sponsored by the UCI (Olympic Council of Asia) and ESC (International Olympic Committee)," said Joseph.

The SEAG cycling team is made up of veteran riders Allie Catalan, Ronald Gonzales, Frederick Feliciano, Joey Dulan, Eusebio Quinones, Hidelyn Rubio, Julius Mark Rosco and Erich Valenzuela.

ADAMSON'S Pau Saraiva (left) finds a hole in the defense of San Sebastian's Jimel Mendajar in yesterday's match. ALEXIS CELESTINO

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

Ateneo gets back at FEU

By Cedelff Tupas

CHARO SORIANO MADE SURE FIRE FIRST and only quarterfinal game for Ateneo Otocan would be a memorable one.

Soriano, the alumna guest player, fired 10 points to help the Lady Eagles fast-track elimination round normarine the Tamaro U, 25-16, 20-24, 24-20, 25-14, yesterday at the start of the quarterfinals of the Shakey's V-League Season 6 second conference at the FEOO Flying V Arena in San Juan.

"We'd have wanted her to be here for the rest of the quarterfinals," said Ateneo coach Clint Malazo of Soriano, who scored the deciding shot that gave the Lady Eagles a 2-set lead.

"She really contributed to get us this win, which gives us confidence for the bigger games ahead," added Malazo, whose squad moved twice as far third with a 5-1 slate.

Soriano is bearing for the United States for a two-week vacation. She will be back in time for the semifinals—if misses gets to fist bit.

In the second game, Adamson pounced on an out-of-sync San Sebastian squad for a 25-15, 25-13, 25-12 decision to join Tri Ateneo in the quadrifinals, the quickest into in the tournament so far.

The Lady Bitons drew 11 points each from Pau Saraiva and Angela Benting and rose to an even 6-6.

Unable to reproduce the form they showed after six of their first seven games, the Lady Stags fell to 6-2.

With San Sebastian absorbing its third loss in five games, however, the Lady Tamaraws kept sole second behind reflection leader University of Santo Tomas.

Malazo said Soriano's absence will allow him to give more exposure to players seeing action in the UAAP tournament next month.

Fille Cainglet registered with 19 points on 15 attacks and Angeline Gervacio added 16.

Ex-PSC chair recalls his fight for justice

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo A. Iñigo

FORMER MANILA Mayor and Philippine Sports Commission chair Atty. Jolly Lopez is set to launch his book highlighting his fight for freedom, justice and democracy during the martial rule years of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

Entitled "Mel Lopez: Politics and Principles," the book details his mission to combat the abuses of Marcos, his uncompromising stand against all forms of gambling (he closed the casinos and jai alai during his term and was jailed for it) and his fight for the abolition of the Metro Manila Commission after questioning the constitutionality of Presidential Decree No. 824 which created the MMC.

It is also worth mentioning here that Lopez did not touch a single centavo of taxpayers' money as all his trips abroad during his long years as a public servant and sports official.

When he was a Manila councilor, mayor and assemblyman and PSC chair and amateur boxing president, the cash-strapped government did not spend for his travels, unlike many government officials now who use public funds. He and four other members of Congress who are set to have ice have left already(!) for Las Vegas to watch the forthcoming Pacquiao-Cotto bout.

"I would have, but I did not take advantage of my positions and used of the trips because there are other people who need the chance to travel and improve their lives," he said.

A true-blue sportsman with a passion for boxing, Lopez headed the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines.

During his term, Alap produced two of the last three Filipino Olympic boxing medal winners.

Under Mel's stewardship, the Philippines won a bronze through Leopoldo Jacinto in the 1988 Seoul Olympics and duplicated the feat through Roel Velasco in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

With his son Manny taking over as Alap head, the country again captured a silver medal in the 1996 Atlanta Centennial Olympics courtesy of the small but terrible Mutsuyo "Diesel" Wilson.

The other Olympic boxing medal winners were Cely Villanueva, who earned a bronze at the 1980 Los Angeles Games, and Cely's son, Anthony, who bagged the country's first Olympic silver medal at the 2004 Tokyo Games when the Alap was then headed by businessman-sportsman Eugenio "Gene" Pacqui.

* * *

The late Angel "Pappy" Saprosan, father-coach of bowling great Paeng, was a bowling coach up to his death.

Shortly before he died on Oct. 31 at age 81, Pappy gave last-minute instructions to his son on how to conduct himself against the tournament-rich Paeng will face on Nov. 20 at the newly-erected SM- International Bowling World Cup title.

"It pains me that I lost my dad," lamented Paeng, adding that this will be the first time he will be representing the Philippines in the World Cup without a coach at his side. Paeng is slated to play in the World Cup starting on Nov. 14 at Melaka, Malaysia.

"Pappy died peacefully in his sleep," recalled his wife, the former Teresita "Baby" Villa-Real, during Pappy's wake at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park.

Bedridden after suffering a stroke a few months back, Pappy spent many happy moments with Baby at their Forbes Park home. "All our children have their own families now with some of them living abroad. It is only Paeng, his wife Perla and my grandchildren who live with us," said Baby, who became the first ever Miss Philippines crown in 1956, when the beauty pageant was still under the auspices of Bebe Town.

* * *

Human rights lawyer and former Bataan board member Pete Principe asked me recently if I would run the magazine of Century 21 Mr Marlon—my compliments for the nice, stunning and inefficient treatment of their clients by their service people!

Until him there was none.

WINDFALL OF MEDALS: Riana Patricia Lago has a proud lineage.

No surprise Riana's one miracle on ice

By Jeannine W. Paya

JUST A QUICK CHECK ON HER LINeage (names little circular that Riana Patricia Villavicencio Lago's heart belongs to sports.

Only nine years old, Riana has surfaced into the figure-skating spotlight here and abroad in the last couple of years.

"I'm serious with skating," says Riana. "When I grow up I want to compete in the Olympics."

Athletic talent may be in her genes—with father Dwight and uncle Elmer both former professional basketball players and grandfather "Ate Mc Villavicencio, the famous commentating also a sports-loving grandson...Just the chattering little skater already knows that excellence demands hard work and personal sacrifices.

"It's a little hard [to balance school and sport]," says Riana, a Year 5 student at the British School of Manila. "But between my [skating] lessons, I study."

In just over two years, Riana has reaped an impressive collection of 61 gold, six silver and seven bronze medals in both local and international competitions.

"Skating is the one I get to count a lot of friends," she says. "It helps me also. I get motivated when I see other skaters do a lot of jumps and spins."

In the United States this year, Riana picked up five gold medals in July's 2009 Sun Valley Summer Competition in Idaho. Then just a few weeks later, she copped six gold and three bronze medals in the 2009 Ice Skating Institute (ISI) World Recreational Team Championship in San Jose, California.

Riana also earned the trip to Europe as one of the only two Filipinos who competed in the Youth Olympic Festival in Singapore 2007 and the ISI World Recreational Team Championships 2008 in Denver, Colorado.

"It was my decision [to learn the sport]," says Riana. "When I was seven, I was invited to a playdate and I saw a friend skate. It was difficult at first."

"We thought maybe [for a swimmer because at a young age she could swim fast," her mother Flo says. "My husband really encourages sports. Our kids are into soccer and swimming, this was always all we but she was always so long as she wants, but if she doesn't want to, she can just tell us."

Riana, who's cross-training during with ballet and ballet, aims to make waves anew in the Skate Hong Kong and Skate Mania competitions slated this month.

"A grandfather's greatest privilege is to be joyously proud of his grandchildren," says the proud grandma Villavicencio. "I am basking in that right now because of my granddaughters' work in figure skating. It makes me so happy that she's doing her share in promoting sports and bringing notice to her fellow youth."

But Riana hardly lets high expectations and pressure get the better of her.

"I feel extraordinary when I compete," she says. "As long as I skating here I'm happy."

PARTNER

Skater bags 2 golds in Europe

By Jose Romero

A FIGURE SKATER WHO CAPTURED AGAINST every gold medal available to the local rinks the past three years has scored his winning act in two major tournaments in Europe recently.

Michael Christian Martinez stunned his opposition circuit after bagging gold medals in the novice class of the recent 2009 Pearcs Ice Cup in Slovakia and the Ice Challenge in Austria.

The 12-year-old 2008 Gaming Pinoy favourite clambered the ISU Intld Cre. 20 on 25, compiling 95.07 points in the free skate and short program to finish ahead of Poland's national champion Krzysztof Gala.

Four days later, Martinez added the Ice Challenge in Graz, held Oct. 20 to 25, to his long list of achievements after topping Austria's Clemens Gobber, 84.71-66.64, in the free skate routine.

The organizers had already awarded second place to Michael. His score I got back to the hotel, I saw an error in the computation," said Michael's mother, Tess Martinez, in an e-mail sent to the Inquirer. "They admitted the error and reversed the results."

SPORTSWATCH

Makati 'Bakbakan' 10-stag derby gets going

BILLED AS THE TOUGHEST CHURCH EVENT THIS YEAR, THE PBA-sanctioned National Bakbakan 10-Stag Derby resumes today at Makati Coliseum with the last set of grandstand breakers taking part.

Eliminations at the same venue on Oct. 28 are filled. 2 times a total of 88 entries. Ranked by promoters Lito Orbilosa, Rudy Salazar and the PBA group of ATU Sports and Amusement Corp., the number of entries at Makati Coliseum alone is expected to reach to 250.

Competitions in the previous get under way to the first week of last month, with the number of entries nationwide already ballooning to 688 with still six more elimination rounds left.

The champion/bantamer gets P1.5 million and the galler P750,000.

P35-M 'Rambulan' derby fires off in San Juan

ACTION KICKS OFF TODAY AT MONTALBAN AND SATURDAY IN THE METRO. Manila administrators of the P35-million Nationwide Rambulan 8-Stag Derby at the San Juan Coliseum with veteran trainer Godofredo Pineda on hand.

Competitions in the previous get under way to the first week of last month, with the number of entries nationwide already ballooning to 688 with still six more elimination rounds left.

The champion/bantamer gets P1.5 million and the galler P750,000.

Celtics bounce back, thump winless Nets

CELTICS' Rondo vs Parkins summary How jersey's Brenton Hassell and serve a feat... »

EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY—Rajon Rondo and Paul Pierce each scored 26 points as the Boston Celtics bounced back from their first loss of the NBA season to beat the winless New Jersey Nets, 86-76, on Saturday.

Their defense was back—and it needed to be, because the Celtics couldn't shoot for most of the game. Boston finished with 22 steals, five by Rondo, scoring 19 points off New Jersey's 24 turnovers.

The Celtics beat the Nets for the 18th straight time. Brook Lopez scored 22 points for the Nets.

At Atlanta, Jamal Crawford scored 20 points, and Josh Smith had 12 points, nine rebounds, six blocked shots and seven assists to help the Hawks turn back the Denver Nuggets, 123-110.

Joe Johnson added 21 points, and Marvin Williams had 14.

Carmelo Anthony had 39 points for Denver, and Chauncey Billups added 25. The Nuggets have lost two straight after opening 5-0.

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki had 29 points and nine rebounds, and Josh Howard scored 16 in his season debut for Dallas following ankle and wrist injuries in the Mavericks dumped Toronto, 129-101.

Jason Terry added 19 points, and Shawn Marion had 18 points and eight rebounds for Dallas. Dallas native Chris Bosh had 26 points and 12 rebounds for Toronto.

At Chicago, John Salmons scored 27 points, and Andres Nocioni added a career-high 21 and had 16 rebounds as Chicago's third straight win, a 93-90 nipping of Charlotte.

The Bulls had a 16-5 run in the third and fourth quarters that turned a nine-point deficit into a seven-point lead at 77-70.

Boris Diaw led Charlotte with 28 points. AP

HOW IS DATA: Kings 98, Jazz 90 (Feb. 9)
Suns 87, Clippers 110 (Feb. 6)
Grizzlies 110

Mickelson rules HSBC by 1

Outduels Els in late rally; Woods ties for fifth

SHANGHAI—PHIL MICKELSON WON THE HSBC CHAMPIONS ON SUNDAY by rallying against a familiar foe. Only it wasn't Tiger Woods.

Mickelson made an 10-footer to save par on the 18th after scrubbing on a flop shot, then added a 10-foot birdie putt on the 17th to close with a 3-under 69 and overcome a late charge by Ernie Els, who won in the lead until hitting into the water and making bogey on the final hole.

Woods was never a factor in the final World Golf Championship of the year, falling six shots behind on the three-iron and doing well to stay on the leaderboard the rest of the way. He hit into the water with his third shot on the par-5 18th and had to scramble for bogey to share with a 72 and tie for fifth, five shots behind.

It was the third time in his last four wins that Woods played in the final group without winning.

"Anything that could go wrong went wrong for me today," Woods said.

Mickelson finished at 17-under 271 and earned $1.2 million in winning his second WGC crown of the year. It was the first time he won a tournament while playing in the final group with Woods.

As much as Mickelson was down the stretch, Els was the opposite.

The South African, devastated when Mickelson beat him with a birdie on the final hole of the 2004 Masters, was 10 under for his round and had a one-shot lead playing the 520-yard 18th. From the middle of the fairway, he went to the green with a fairway metal and landed in the middle of the lake.

Els had 218 yards to the front of the green on a downslope in the fairway, not enough for him to hit 4-iron, while a 5-iron might go over the green and down the bank into the water. He opted to hit a high cut with his 5-wood and "basically duffed it."

"But I can't think about that," Els said, after watched the round-seven shots behind. "But one more finish all the way, to actually share the lead at that point, was quite nice."

Els settled for a share of the course record at Sheshan International, a 9-under 63 matched earlier in the day by Rory McIlroy, who finished fourth, and Danny Lee of Singapore.

Mickelson won for the fourth time this year, tying a career best.

Ryan Moore, who only qualified for the HSBC Champions by winning his first PGA Tour title in August, closed with a 68 and finished alone in third, enough to move him into the top 50 in the world.

Mickelson now takes three months off before starting his 2010 season. AP

MICKELSON: Four wins this year REUTERS

Haye snags Valuev belt via decision

HAMBURG, GERMANY—DAVID HAYE won the WBA heavyweight championship by outpointing Nikolai Valuev by a majority decision on Saturday.

The Greek British boxer used his superior quickness against the huge Russian, who came close to being knocked down for the first time in his 16-year pro career in the final round.

"The key was my speed," Haye said. "People don't realize I am very fast. And I have a powerful punch. I'm athletic and if I wasn't a boxer, I would be playing football or rugby."

Haye, a former cruiserweight world champion, won his third heavyweight fight to improve to 20-1 (21 KOs) despite giving up nearly a foot and nearly 100 pounds to the tallest and heaviest champion in history.

Haye won over the judges with two scores of 116-112, while a third called it 114-114.

Valuev's record dropped to 30-2 with 24 KOs. He admitted Haye was too quick. AP

Falcons unbeaten in PCCL Cebu zonal

By Cedell P. Tupas

SHAMPOO SPIRIT UNITED city of San Jose Mocorito, 89-81, on Saturday night and closed in on a "Sweet 16" berth in the Philippine Collegiate Champions League.

Alvin Mangalip and Jessie Lacuesta fired 18 points apiece and Jun Julius Cobus and Eric Canson chipped in 14 each as the Falcons streaked to their second straight victory in the four-team zonals at the Cebu Coliseum.

The Jaguars, fourth placers in the Cebu Schools Athletic Foundation Inc. fell to 0-2.

The Falcons still need to beat San Sebastian Cavite to avoid a possible three-way tie and secure one of the two Sweet 16 slots in stake in the Cebu zonal.

University of Cebu kept its hopes of reaching the national finals alive with a 74-68 win over San Sebastian-Cavite.

The Webmasters drew 22 points from 6-foot-10 center Jeremar Rijardo and 19 from Robinson Mohamad, who made six triples.

FCC, which hosted in Atlantic, 72-79, Friday night, then entered with San Sebastian.

The Webmasters were to play the Jaguars last night.

Matches by Adamson and UC will send both the Falcons and the Webmasters to the national finals into the zonals.

Eleven teams have already secured slots to the Sweet 16, SCTV UAAP champion Ateneo, Ateneo Blue University of the East, Far Eastern U and University of Santo Tomas.

Also assured of slots are NCAA elite Mapua Cardinals, San Beda, Jose Rizal U and Letran as well as Cesafi champion University of Visayas.

Advancing from the zonal is knocked out Arellano U and University of San Carlos.

The zonal tournaments in Manila and Negros City will determine the remaining three teams that will play in the national finals of this tournament backed by Smart and PLDT.

World Indoor meet: Pinoys 20th overall

THE PHILIPPINES SETTLED FOR 20th overall in the 36 nation indoor Games with a one-gold four silver-five bronze medal haul as swimmer Miguel Molina missed a podium finish Saturday night in Hanoi.

Molina, who picked up a silver in the 200-meter individual medley, finished fourth in the 100 IM in 55.51 seconds, just .26 millisecond off the 55.25 registered by bronze medalist Radomyos Matjiur of Thailand.

The Philippines emerged seventh among the participating host Asian countries, with Laos, which will host the 25th SEA Games next month, even finishing ahead with three gold, eight silver and 14 bronze medals for 13th overall.

Thrones emerged as the host Southeast Asian country with a 90-25-19 gold-silver-bronze romp, good for second overall. J. Rayo

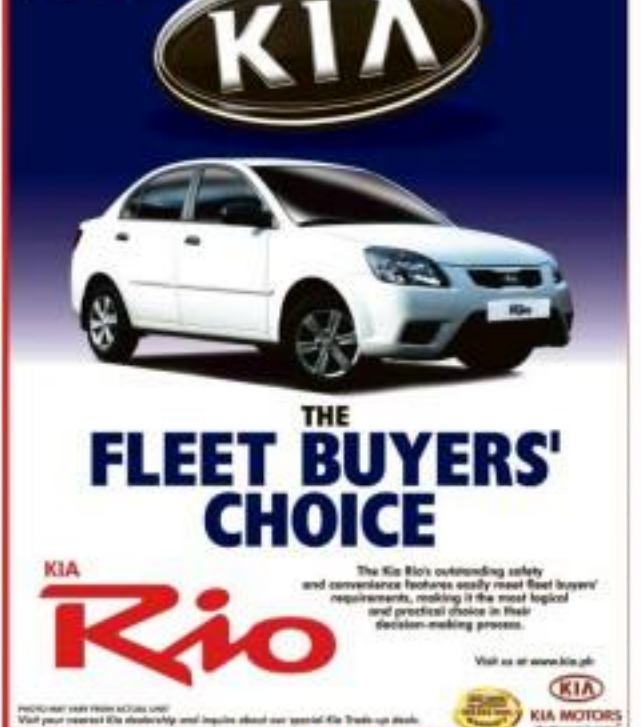
FBL caging lures 25 teams

TWENTY-FIVE TEAMS ARE SEEing action in the Futures Basketball League, which tips off Saturday at the San Beda Technical College arena in Cebu City.

The school-based event has lured squads like University of San Carlos Webb, Cebu Yachtsmen Colleges, Iloilo Business Technical College, Sacred Heart School Jesuit, University of San Jose-Recoletos, PMST Springfield, South Western University, Cebu Institute of Technology and Chiefish School.

"The FBL is growing in Cebu," said FBL Cebu tournament director Mike Reyes, who will be assisted by Arjo Sitoa. "The program has contributed greatly to youth basketball development in Cebu."

Supporting the tournament are Pilipinas Makes Sense, Samsung Cameras, Hundreds 'D' Hotdogs, Gatorade Thirst Quencher, Philips Steelpreads and Accessories and Accord Capital. Cedell P. Tupas



Kenyans sweep Pasig River 42K

By Romina S. Zurbito

KINGSLEY CHEPKWOR CAPURIEN (4:40), mid-straight Philippine marathon crowd as powerhouse Kenya dominated local long-distance men event, sweeping the men's division of the 8km for Pasig River which started and finished at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila yesterday.

Chepkwor crossed the yapsoff line in two hours, 20 minutes and 42 seconds, two minutes and 11 seconds faster than his winning time in the second Subic International Marathon only last Oct. 28.

Johnson Terer placed second in 2:27:55 while Elkanna Kimboy was third in 2:27:17. Three other Kenyans accepted fourth to sixth spots—Hillary Lagat (2:28:23), Willy Kipkemoi (2:28:38) and Hillary Kimutai (2:29:24).

"I am very happy to win again and I want to come back here next year," said the 29-year-old Chepkwor, who broke away from the lead pack in the final four kilometers near the intersection of Sen. Gil Puyat and Taft avenues in Pasay.

Filipinos Eric Buniqui clocked 2:30:33 and Crescencio Sabal 2:33:10 to place seventh and eighth, respectively.

Celestia Morelle Gilbeson (2:18:08) prevailed in the Kenyan-less distaff side. Monalisa Sinibaw placed second (2:18:36) and Geraldine Sendin was third (2:20:57).

The full marathon runners took home P50,000 in cash and P70,000 worth of products while the 5K and 10K runners-up bagged P5,000.

The inaugural Quezon City International Marathon on Oct. 16 also saw the Kenyans sweep the men's and women's full and half marathon events.

The race, also known as the Philippine International Marathon, drew about 22,000 participants, more than 3,000 of them in the premier 42.195-kilometer event.

The full marathon runners negotiated nine of the 13 bridges of the Pasig River. A 42K relay event composed of 20 people exchanging turns in 21 points was held alongside the regular race.

Gina Lopez, managing director of ABS-CBN Foundation Inc., which is one of the lead partners of the Kapit-Bisig para sa Ilog Pasig campaign, said the marathon raised about P1 million.

"Sometimes, it's not all about the money," said Lopez, who finished her 5K race in 43 minutes.

"Events like this raise the people's awareness about the importance of the Pasig River and at the same time, promote running which is good for our health."

PART of the 22,000 strong starting field negotiates Roxas Boulevard from the Quirino grandstand in Rizal Park. At right, chief organizer Gina Lopez says the race is a key component of the drive to raise funds to rehabilitate the Pasig River. MIKE ALQUINTO

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WB urges services sector deregulation

Move seen to benefit RP

By Michelle V. Remo

THE WORLD BANK HAS URGED countries in the Asia Pacific to consider deregulating the services sector in the coming meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation in Singapore this month.

Easing the entry of foreign workers would help bolster growth of the Philippines and other Asian countries that have a lot of talented labor in offer, a top official of the foreign lender said.

"Asian countries can be much more competitive than they already are. The services sector, with some carefully planned deregulation, could have a greater impact on economies," Vikram Nehru, World Bank chief economist for East Asia and the Pacific, told reporters in a video conference last week.

Nehru said the services sector had the potential of contributing to growth of Asian economies as much as the manufacturing sector had done over the last three decades. But the World Bank, opening up the service sector would benefit countries in need of labor and those with a lot of unemployed people.

The World Bank executive said a major issue that should be discussed during the apec economic should be the need for Asian economies to integrate more, such as by opening up the services sector.

Nonetheless, Vikram stressed that should

WEATHER: B5

Main Movers

Currencies

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1 = 46.48 ▼

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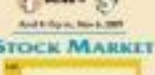
Stock Market



(For more market figures, see Page B4)

Stocks seen trading lower

THE LOCAL STOCK MARKET IS SEEN trading with a bearish bias this week as Wall Street and other regional markets were netting short-term gains alongside the dearth of incentives to load up on to cut equities.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained a marginal 0.1% percent last week to close at 2,301.47 on Friday, boosted by the fresh excitement over Manila Electric Co. and Philex Mining Corp.

"I wasn't be surprised if the index loses 2-3 percentage [points]," said Jose Mari Lanzon, head of research at local brokerage Campos Lanuza & Co.

Lanzon said the Dow Jones, which was was struggling to keep afloat at 10,000, may lead the correction this week. He noted that other Asian markets like in Hong Kong have already succumbed to downward correction, except that the market fall would was partially up by the telecommunications and energy sectors.

But the excitement on Manalos has fizzled

STOCKS: B3

They Know Best

Smart customers are smarter roamers

Common, a leading roaming alliance among leading Asian telco carriers consists of SKT (South Korea, Starhub, for Eastern, Hutchison, KT Freetel, Indosat, YouMobile, MTM, and Bibli held a casual plenary led by the SMART Corporate Business Group to positively seek out valuable customer insight. This important event was held at the exclusive Shangrila Resort and Hotel in Cebu's Mactan Island to welcome chosen corporate customers for a two-day stay.

Representing carriers as diverse as palm management to cosmetic manufacturing, shipping, and consumer goods, these corporate customers are increasingly more dependent on keeping in touch with headquarters or with their outlying branches all over the world even as they travel. Naturally it made sense for SMART to find out as much as they could about their opinions and sensibilities.

"Corporate roaming customers are an ever-growing segment, given the continuing pace of globalization even in light of economic downturns," explains Chet Aliño, SMART Corporate Business Group (CBG) Head of Access Marketing. "They've voiced their considerable suggestions, and all throughout SMART history."

According to Common partners who where present, corporate roaming concerns such as those expressed on during this sharing session are well known. "As a corporate businessman myself, I know how important roaming is to coordinate a business expansion through global marketing in the Asia region," said Mr Chul-Ahn's Hanjuri Shimbasawa of the Global Strategy Group. The region continues to be the definitive center for global economic recovery and growth.

Executives, represented by Assistant Senator Manager Mr. Mobile Business Market End Lee expressed her desire to "leverage Common' shared experiences in serving our customers better as well as our other respective strengths with each other." For Hiroyuki Akamatsu of Starhub's Business Services Assistant Common as a "Value Plus-Asian alliance which would still be shareholders members can really expand outside their comfort levels." Clearly it would be an effective alliance to compete across regional and cultural divides.

The Royal Treatment

SMART knows how to take care of its corporate customers only in the best way possible. They couldn't have picked a more ideal location than the Shangrila Mactan. the weather was bright and breezy and corporate customers were treated to a fast relaxing premium retreat including a welcome lunch at the Tides restaurant and a special VIP dinner together with the members of Common at Plantation Bay.

Likewise the experience made for a congenial and easy exchange of ideas during the Common sharing sessions. "We gleaned very real and very valuable lessons from this activity," said Nemiar Bernas, EVP and Head NUSCSMART Corporate Business Group. "We learned what more how valuable customer insight is and more than just listening, we have to be willing to act decisively on that relevant comments and suggestions."

"We pulled out all the stops to make our customers feel relaxed and comfortable here in Cebu," added Sid Perez, SMART's Head of CBG's Wireless Division. "Our customers are important to us for all the obvious reasons, but also because from input and experiences provide the crucial building blocks of our product and business development as well as the defined long-term corporate business strategy for SMART."

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Bangko Sentral sees record forex reserves in 2010

By Michelle V. Borja

THE COUNTRY WILL POST A NEW record high in its foreign exchange reserves in 2010, supported by an accelerated growth in remittances and investments in the business process outsourcing industry, according to latest projections by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The BSP said the gross international reserves (GIR) could reach between $47 billion and $48 billion next year, higher than the expected $43 billion to $44 billion for 2009.

"The country's external payment position will continue to be favorable in 2010," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters Friday. He said an increase in the foreign currency reserves would be one of the benefits the Philippines will gain from a gradual recovery of the global economy from the worst crisis since the Great Depression.

The GIR is the total amount of foreign currency reserves of a country that are kept and managed by the central bank. It determines a country's ability to engage in commercial transactions—like foreign trade and debt payments—with the rest of the world.

Its functions includes to counteract different countries push up, as well deployment of more Filipinos to jobs abroad. Tetangco said remittances by the overseas Filipinos will grow by 4 percent growth in remittances next year, faster than this year's anticipated rise of 4 percent.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration has signed agreements with counterparts in various countries that are in need of labor. "Those agreements were cushioning the growth in deployment of Filipinos to work abroad.

Tetangco said remittances this year, despite the contraction in the economies of industrialized nations, were still poised to grow, albeit at a slower pace, because of continued deployment to alternative labor markets. He said the recovery of recession-affected countries by 2010 would further increase the amount of money sent by overseas Filipinos.

The central bank chief said the outlook on foreign investments inflows was also more favorable to 2010 than this year.

INVITATION TO PHILIPPINE BUYERS, ASSET COMPANIES AND DISTRIBUTORS

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INVITATION TO BID

GMA & LUZON PROPERTIES

STAR ASSET MANAGEMENT ROPOAS, INC. invites all interested parties to bid the following properties on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis:

ASSET CODE	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	LOT AREA (SQM)	TCT No.
SB-070	One (1) commercial Lot (with unfinished building)	153 L.V. Locsin Blvd. cor. Madison St., Quezon City	1,663	N-153888
SQ-020	One (1) residential vacant lot	Riverside Village, Barrio Rosario, Pasig City	8,521	PT-126827
SB-060	Four (4) parcels of land	Lourdes st., Tarcilla Subd. II, Brgy. IBP Homes, Pamplona	3,000	T-179742 to T-179745
SB-071	One (1) residential lot	Lot 25&6 Sitio Ada, Brgy. Mangaljan, Montalban, Rizal	5,214	T-500202
SB-104	Resort and Subport	Villa Evangelista, Bagumbayan, Bulacan, Bulacan	30,453	T-130687 to T-130692
SBN-020	Four (4) contiguous lots (with improvement)	No. 797 Burgos Ave., Poblacion, Catarman (Cit), Northern Samar	1,510	T-13795, T-13870, T-19999, T-24314
SB-009	Twenty-two (22) contiguous vacant lots	Asia-Asia Road, Barrientos, Bataan	80,734	unavailable
SP-010	One (1) residential lot (with improvements)	Lot 1-B Purok 7 Brgy. Sta. Rita, Aurora, Isabela	46,422	T-202791
SB-039 to SB-043	Five (5) commercial vacant lots	Lot 2-A to C, Sr. Perez, Calamba, Laguna	31,999	T-160349 to T-160351
MN-048	Three (3) mixed-used parcels of land	No. 445, National Road, Brgy. Barangay Banlic, Calamba, Laguna	70,999	T-287905 to T-287907
MN-049	Seven (7) contiguous lots (with improvements)	No. 47 Prov. Road, Brgy. Banlic, Calamba Laguna	66,667	T-206128 to T-206145
SB-041	One (1) industrial lot	Lot 11, Brgy. Bambang, Cal., Laguna	31,919	T-126289
SP-018	Various industrial lots (with improvements)	Sta. Domingo Rd., Brgy. Laguna, Mesiana, Laguna	23,444	unavailable
SB-031	Two (2) adjoining parcels of agricultural with a single storey bldg.	Bonifacio St. Brgy. Lalog, Lipa City, Batangas	66,716	T-171150 to T-171151
SB-011	One (1) vacant lot	Sitio Dayapon, Bo. Dapdap, Tanauan, Cavite	213,870	O-3241
SP-102	Seventy-seven (77) residential lots	Villa Honrosa Subdivision, Tanauan, Batangas	66,660	unavailable
SB-052	Four (4) contiguous parcels of land	Governor's Drive Ext., Brgy. Salaguin, Trece, Cavite	283,000	T-124622 to T-124625
SB-033	Five (5) contiguous lots	Evercrest White Cove, Balagtas, Batangas	83,170	T-76115, T-76121 to T-76125
SP-033	One (1) vacant lot (with improvements)	Isang Bay, Roxas, Brgy. Isabang, Quezon	9,121	T-106089

BID SCHEDULE
Start of Distribution of Bid Package and Bid Documents: November 3, 2010 (STAR office)
Date Deposit Period: November 9 - 27, 2010
Bid Date: November 29, 2010 (STAR office)

STAR reserves the right to reject any all bids, to waive any formality thereof, and to accept the bid as may be considered most advantageous to the company. The decision of STAR shall be final and binding.

For more information, please visit or call STAR at telephone nos. 896-2202 or 896-6212. Official Contact person is Mr. Jimmy Chan, AVP (0928-5004855)

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How do we raise investment?

NO FREE LUNCH
Cielito F. Habito

ALONG WITH OFFICIALS from the World Bank and the International Finance Corp., I spoke in a panel discussion on stable economy and improved investment climate organized by the WB Manila office last week. The discussion was meant to guide WB on how to advise the new administration that is expected to take over next year on the most critical and strategic interventions needed to address the pressing challenges facing the Philippine economy.

I thought it useful to share with readers some key ideas that emerged from that forum, both from the panel and from the participants, who were mostly composed of mayors and governors from around the country.

Persistent challenges

The challenge we face, as discussed at the outset by WB Philippines country director Ian Porter, sums up in (1) traditional weaknesses of our economic growth especially when compared to that of our neighbors, (2) failure of our economic growth to translate into significant poverty reduction and (3) the unusually low level of investment in our economy in recent years. It was acknowledged that overall growth had exported by improved in recent years, and the country has in fact been spared from recession amid the global downturn. However, our recent experience of rising poverty in spite of sound growth brings home the point that growth simply is not enough; the quality of that growth is also important. It is pretty worryingly unique to the Philippines is why recent growth has not only failed to reduce poverty to the country, but actually even led to worsening poverty. A crucial element in that puzzle is the very low level of investment in the country, whether domestic or foreign, and whether private or public. It was pointed out that total investment account for only about 15 percent of Philippine GDP, whereas it accounts for upwards of 20 percent for most of our neighbors.

Boosting investments

The answers to the morning puzzle are not really difficult to come by; participants in the forum had a wealth of ideas and experiences to share, both to explain and to address our challenges. Much of the discussion focused on the role of small and medium enterprises (SME), especially those based in the countryside, in boosting our lagging investment. I pointed out that in discussions on low levels of investment in our country there is a tendency to think too much in terms of large enterprises. But we often forget that investments by SMEs could be an equally important, if not the more important contributor to boosting Philippine investments, especially at this time.

Investments by large numbers of SMEs would annually add up and provide the numbers we need to fill in the investment gap relative to our neighbors. This is not to say that we should think less about attracting foreign investments, wherein we are also being badly left behind by our neighbors, well. I also reminded the audience argued that preoccupation with attracting foreign investors could detract us from promoting more domestic investments, especially by rural SMEs whose benefits would be more broad-based. Indeed, it is also much less capital-intensive one job in an SME than in a large enterprise. If we want more investments to translate into more jobs, it is investments in the former that would be more job-creating—and ultimately more poverty-reducing.

SME hurdles

Security aren't done well enough. SMEs to provide those needed investments and jobs in the countryside? This is no-brainer policy-relevant to the government and mayors who made up the forum's audience, as they are uniquely and strategically placed to either assess or deter SME investments in their respective areas.

Financing was pointed out to be the most binding constraint to SME development, and surveys among SMEs have consistently affirmed this. But how, the problem is not so much the cost of financing? This is especially particularly

3rd quarter economic growth seen at 3.8%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE economy will likely grow year-on-year by a better than expected 3.8 percent in the fourth quarter even in the aftermath of the great Manila-that drowned Metro Manila and some parts of Luzon, according to a joint research by First Metro Investment Corp. and the University of Asia and the Pacific.

In their "The Market Call" publication for October, the joint PSBC-UAP research said despite the extraordinary rainfall and floods in mid-September, the third quarter growth would likely be much better than the first two quarters of the year.

"We have scaled down, nevertheless, our full-year GDP [gross domestic product] growth forecast to 2.1 percent, as the positive spending may not be sufficient to completely offset the output losses in agricultural and productive capacity," the research said.

The research said the main impact of the flooding was on agricultural output, especially rice, and slightly on manufacturing in portions of Metro Manila and Northern Luzon. However, it said the event could be partly offset by the spending on new appliances, furniture and repairs of houses, buildings and infrastructures.

PSBC-UAP believed this would share fourth-quarter GDP estimates by 0.5 percent but still slow by 3.8 percent, which would still enable it to beat the high-end of government projections.

Growth in real electricity sales, used by PSBC-UAP as proxy for economic activity, jumped from -0.3 percent in the second quarter to 4.3 percent (year-on-year) in the third quarter.

It is safe to conclude that economic activity in the country picked up in the third quarter with residential electricity sales up by 6.5 percent and commercial sales up by 3.2 percent. This is also the quarter in which the industrial sector turned positive, growing at 1.7 percent for the third quarter," the research said.

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Lopez firm earmarks P50.2B to develop geothermal areas

By Jerry S. Bacus

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORP., the country's biggest producer of geothermal energy, has committed to pour in some P50.2 billion to further develop its five existing geothermal service contract areas over the next five years.

The contracts for these areas have been recently converted by the Department of Energy into renewable energy service contracts, which would allow the Lopez-led firm to tap the incentives provided under the Renewable Energy Law.

The fiscal and non-fiscal incentives included a seven-year income tax holiday.

Documents from the DOE showed that the bulk of the spending or about P22.7 billion would be allocated for the 112.5-megawatt (MW) Nonoc 3 geothermal power plant in Leyte, while another P6.74 billion would be used for the 192.5-MW Bulalacao facility in Negros Oriental.

It was only late last month that EDC assumed the operations of the two power plants after winning the bidding in September for P4.08 million bid edged out the Aboitiz group's offer of P200 million.

But of this amount may likely be used for a planned rehabilitation of the facilities to have them operating at their maximum capacities.

EDC earlier said it expected to complete the rehabilitation of the facilities within a year or so.

Meanwhile, EDC committed to spend $96.3 billion over the next five years to expand the 1,568-MW Tiwi-Makiling geothermal power facility.

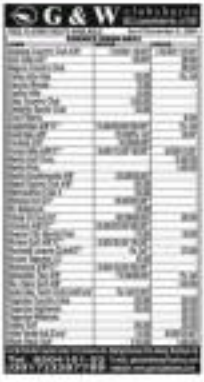
The documents showed that EDC also plans to invest P6.1 billion for its 180-MW Mindanao geothermal production field in Mt. Apo, within the North Cotabato/Davao areas.

Another P6.37 billion will also be allocated for the Northern Negros power plant in Negros Occidental within a five-year period, DOE documents showed.

It was only in May this year that EDC inconsummated its 49-MW Northern Negros facility after being shut down for almost a year due to insufficient steam production.

EDC had said that the decline in steam production was mainly due to the "clogging of the wells by silicate minerals found in the current geothermal field. The clogging process that usually occurs releasing the steam from its very source underneath the earth."

However, the steam field is expected to produce steam good for only 35 to 40 MW of electricity due to the small area of operations. Since 1987, the 'Scott Barrs' Negros geothermal facility had actually been operating under capacity.



RFM posts 78% jump in 9-month net profit

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE CONCEPCION SIBERZ's RFM Corp. reported a 78 percent growth in net profit in the first nine months as the softening of major raw material prices and improved plant efficiency boosted margins despite some weakness in consumer spending.

RFM posted a net income of P282.2 million from January to September for the third quarter alone, the net profit amount stood at P147.6 million, up 403 percent from a year ago.

The decline in input costs despite the end-timing of global commodity prices as well as improvement in plant efficiencies boosted its gross margin to 28 percent from 25 percent during the same period last year.

RFM had earlier projected that this year's sales of P5.4 billion by P580.1 million, running right up the backend a 12 percent expansion in sales during the second half of the year.

Despite the reported weakness in the consumer market, RFM expressed confidence that it would continue to gain market share and boost profitability for the remainder of the year alongside its goal of providing higher value for money food and beverage alternatives to the consumer.

Pasta spaghetti has maintained its position as market leader. The Pasta brand is the company's second market leader, following the Selecta brand that has continued to dominate the Philippine ice cream market with a market share of more than 50 percent.

RFM is also optimistic in the growth performances of its variety or 'water with vitamins and benefits, which was recently launched as a first entrant in the vitamin-enriched water category and endorsed by Filipino actress Kristine Hermosa Recepción.

The company is also preparing to roll out an array of new products in different market categories that are, in turn, expected to contribute significantly to overall earnings, sales and improved margins.

Disclosures

EQUITY MARKET Asia Connect Holdings Inc. will hold its special stockholders' meeting on Dec. 10 at 9 a.m. at the Baliuag and Bulacan Rooms of The Peninsula Manila in Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Nov. 10 will be entitled to notice of and vote at, the said meeting.

* * *

FEDERAL Resources Investment Group Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 11 at 9 a.m. at the Makati Sports Club, Bel-Air Village, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Nov. 10 will be entitled to notice of and vote at, the said meeting.

* * *

SMI HOLDINGS Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 22 at 8:30 a.m. at the 22nd floor of The Pearlbank Centre, Salcedo Village, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Nov. 29 will be entitled to notice of and vote at, the said meeting.

* * *

PILIPINAS Telephone Corp. announced on Nov. 5 the resignation of Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr. as independent director and member of the audit committee of the company.

* * *

THE BOARD of Directors of **Mirogawa Industries Corp.** elected on Nov. 5 Atty. Jo Ann Lucinario P. as a new director of the company, effective immediately. Jon Jacquier will serve the unexpired term of Eduardo del Rosario, who resigned as the company's director and vice-chair.

* * *

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. will hold its analysts' and business press briefing on Nov. 10, 9 a.m. at the Cinemedia Lounge, 14th floor of the Dolphy-Lopez Jr. Communications Center in the ABS-CBN Compound, Quezon City.

* * *

THE BOARD of **San Miguel Properties Inc.** on Nov. 2 elected Alberto Gonzalez as director replacing Ferdinand Constantino.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Black Energy Corp.** on Oct. 20 elected Belchi Wahid as chair of the advisory board.

* * *

DELTA Casino has resigned as assistant corporate secretary of **Nihao Mineral Resources International Inc.**

* * *

SPLASH corp. has announced the appointment of Venicenta M. Tomas as senior vice president and chief finance officer effective Oct. 15, 1999. It also currently the company's investor relations officer.

* * *

ISLAND Information and Technology Inc. on Oct. 19 elected Martina Fausnino as a member of its board of directors, replacing Jose T. Lee, effective Sept. 14, 2000 to Oct. 31, 2010.

* * *

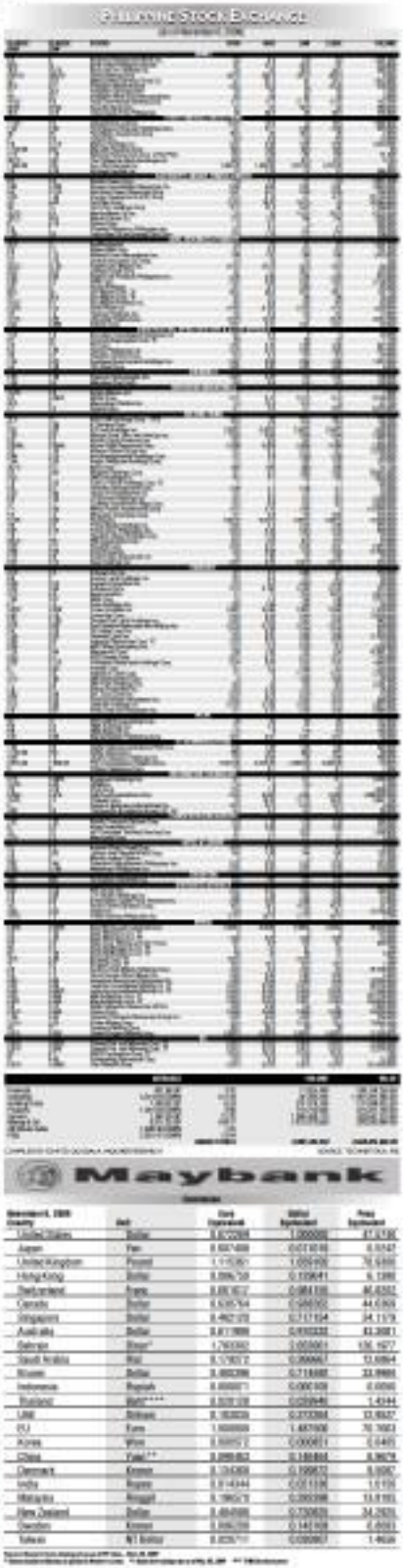
ASIATRUST Development Bank Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 23 at 2 p.m. at the Manila Hilton Pavilion at the Ground Floor of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 14 will be entitled to notice of, and vote at, the said meeting.

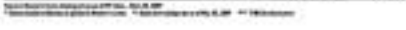
* * *

ARANETA Properties Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 17 at 9 a.m. at the 21st Floor Citibank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 15 are entitled to notice of and vote at, the said meeting.

* * *

ORIENTAL Peninsula Resources Group Inc. has postponed its annual stockholders' meeting to Dec. 7. Compiled by Cristabel Bondoc and Jane Joyce de Guzman, Inquirer Research





3rd. . .

From page B1

"Although ... the country may have suffered from two devastating ty-phoons toward the end of September, the third quarter has been the best quarter for the economy so far this year," it added.

The Philippines posted a better-than-expected year-on-year growth in gross domestic product of 3.5 percent in the second quarter on the back of robust consumer and the government's fiscal pump priming, wiping out fears of an economic recession this year. This was much better than the revised first-quarter GDP growth of 0.6 percent.

On a monthly basis, the economy had begun was generally better than September, posting that electricity sales growth for September slowed down from 5.5 to 5.7 percent due to the decline in residential and commercial sales. Still, the industrial sector showed signs of recovery as its power consumption growth accelerated to 6.3 from 1.1 percent in August, the research said.

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HARI UPHOLDS WORLD-LEADING EXCELLENCE AT THE 8TH HYUNDAI MOTOR WORLD SKILLS OLYMPICS

Ready for the world. (From L-R, left photo) Donny Balbastro, Training Section Head of HARI; Engr. Fred Jose, HARI's AVP for the After-Sales Division; and Nelson R. Tesoro, technician from Hyundai La Union and HARI's official delegate for the competition, are poised for the win at the 8th Hyundai Motor World Skills Olympics. (Right photo) For the second straight year, HARI is acclaimed for the Excellent Skills of its globally competitive technicians.

Excellence has no secrets, and for Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI), the official distributor of Hyundai vehicles in the Philippines, which currently occupies the Top 4 spot in overall industry rankings, the resulting payoff not only means another award on a shiny trophy case, but another milestone in maintaining customer satisfaction.

HARI recently triumphed in the 8th Hyundai Motor World Skills Olympics held at the Hyundai Motor Company (HMC) Technical Training Center in Chonan, Korea. Nelson R. Tesoro of Hyundai La Union, last year's champion in HARI's National Skills Olympics, bagged the Excellent Skills Award in HMC's prestigious biennial event, which demonstrates the technical prowess of Hyundai's best technicians. 75 participants from 30 countries actively competed, and HARI's Nelson R. Tesoro was distinguished among the 13 technicians chosen to receive the title of Excellent Skills.

Aside from this honor, global Shell and Shell Rotella, major partners of HMC in organizing the said competition, bestowed HARI with the "Best Service Provider" award for the distributor's dedicated support in the promotion of Shell quality lubricants in the Philippines.

Founded in 1999, the competition in Hyundai's World Skills Olympics may seem fairly easy on paper, but in reality, it consists of two grueling phases: a written exam and a practical exam, where the technicians' skills and knowledge of Hyundai are gauged according to their problem-solving ability and repair procedure, while keeping on the following criteria: trouble diagnosis method, trouble finding efficiency, and precautionary measures. The practical test is divided into several sections by major themes such as engine system, transaxle system, electrical system, chassis system, and computerized diagnosis, to all these, Nelson R. Tesoro displayed great under pressure, which successfully paid off and sealed another victory for HARI, and subsidiary, for the Philippines.

HARI's newest achievement in the field of service counts as its third milestone in its pursuit of uphold-ing excellence in customer satisfaction. Through continuous and world-class training, HARI's technicians have consistently won major awards in HMC's ultimate battleground for Master and Expert Hyundai technicians around the globe. In 2005, HARI's representatives to the 6th World Skills Olympics bagged the Superior Skills Award, and in 2007, Gilbert Cuna and Reggie Ramos bested over 72 technicians from 46 countries with an overall ranking of Excellent Skills.

As HARI continues to hold the torch of world-class excellence, so shall the official distributor of Hyundai in the Philippines keep its passion to deliver total customer satisfaction at all levels, and bring Hyundai at the forefront of the automotive industry.

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Factory prices posted steepest drop in Sept.

BPO agents may soon phone from homes

By Abigail L. Ho

IT WILL ONLY BE A matter of time before the business process outsourcing sector starts employing "at-home" agents, or those who do not have to go to the office or perform their jobs, according to a ranking industry executive.

Larry Jones, president and chief executive of BPO firm StarTek, said "at-home" agents could well be the wave of the future for the industry.

"Home-based agents will eventually complement center-based delivery (of services). With this, the industry will be able to reach new labor pools that are not located near call centers, and also those people who can't commute to work," he said.

"There's a rapid adoption (of this model) in the US today. There's minimal impact on office-based services due to connectivity. Who hasn't call centers where agents can work at home?" he added.

This model, however, would not entirely replace the current BPO practice as the world knows it, he said. It would merely complement the present structure.

He said the adoption of this model could even best existing call centers to enhance the technologies they are now using, as remote maintenance of personnel would also require an upgrade of their current systems.

"The model requires a lot of technology and a whole new way of managing the workforce. The same technologies (that will be used to manage the remote personnel) can also aid existing call center processes. Technology in the call center is going to rise dramatically," he said.

Technology would also be the main driver of future BPO growth, he said, as service providers push to provide more value-added services to their clients.

More than labor, he said technology would provide a BPO firm the edge that it need set in a fiercely competitive environment.

But this was not to say that technology would someday replace the human touch.

"The industry will just be using more technology in its operations. There will be more self-help (models) but end-users (is more friendly) technology. There will also be an increase in the number of tech-assisted agents—those who use e-mail, chat, and social networking. Even now, customers are more likely to pick up a (personal) digital assistant or other wireless) device than a phone," he said.

CONTACT: Call center workers man their stations at a business process outsourcing firm. According to one chief executive, "at-home" call center agents will be "the wave of the future." (LYN RILLON)

Petroleum products, furniture lead decliners, says NSO

By Ramon N. Dominguez

FACTORY PRICES CONTINUED to drop in September at a faster rate of 5.4 percent year-on-year, according to the National Statistics Office.

NSO data show that prices of 20 selected prospect manufactured goods have been contracting on a yearly basis for the fifth straight month, dropping the steepest in September.

Preliminary results from the NSO's monthly producer price survey showed that the drop in the producer price index (PPI) was mainly due to sustained two-digit decreases observed in the furniture and fixtures, basic metals, petroleum products, and paper sectors.

Prices of these four product groups went down by 12.8 percent, 20.3 percent, 17.8 percent and 12.2 percent, respectively.

Seven other sectors showed decreasing prices, including miscellaneous manufactures, electrical machinery, food manufacturing, rubber and plastic products, fabricated metal products, tobacco products and transport equipment.

On the other hand, the report also showed that nine sectors posted increasing prices, led by wood and wood products at 30.8 percent, and furniture and wearing apparel at 12.4 percent.

Seven other sectors that increased prices at single-digit rates were chemical products, non-electrical machinery, textiles, non-metallic mineral products, publishing and printing, beverages, and leather products.

On a month-on-month basis, the PPI decreased by 0.9 percent in September, swinging from an increase of 1.6 percent in August—as five of the manufacturing sectors reported price falls, with electronic machinery losing the most at 3.9 percent.

The growths were observed in eight major sectors, namely rubber and plastic products, miscellaneous manufactures, leather products, tobacco products, wood and wood products, publishing and printing, beverages and textiles.

Six other sectors showed increasing monthly prices, with those of transport equipment picking up the fastest at 3.1 percent.

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Mag-Negosyong Hi-tech na!

BPI pushes funding for 'green' ventures

By Doris E. Dumlao

FROM PREFERENTIAL LENDING TO "Green" projects to rating technology to offer banking services to the poor and reducing its own carbon dioxide footprint, Ayala-led Bank of the Philippine Islands has mapped out a program to conduct banking in environmentally, environmentally and socially sustainable ways.

These initiatives are in line with the "triple-bottomline" business model—one that is run in terms of profit, people and the planet—now being implemented across the Ayala group.

"Sustainability is not only about green initiatives although those are the most popular. It's more about making sure that people have jobs and we provide banking services to all," BPI president Aurelio Montinola III told reporters during the launch of the bank's first sustainability report on Friday.

Part of the environmental initiatives is a new partnership with International Finance Corp., which is part of the World Bank group, to finance green projects.

"What we do is we entail a technical person to come to our clients to check what could be upgraded and improved and done after that, we give financing to them. There's a risk sharing with IFC," Montinola said.

He said BPI recently signed an agreement with IFC to undertake a second tranche of this risk-sharing agreement. About P1.2 billion worth of loans under this scheme had been disbursed under the first phase.

BPI is willing to lend as much as P5 billion for these initiatives. In case of big projects, Montinola said BPI could underwrite half the risk involved.

Montinola Montinola noted that part of the sustainability framework was to expand market share by tapping the unserved market, which constituted about 90 percent of the Philippine population. "In 1995, we went into consumer (banking). In the 1990s, we went into SMEs (small and medium enterprises), and now we've gone into microfinance," he said.

Microfinance is the provision of loans and other banking services to the entrepreneurial poor. Through its microfinance banking unit "BPI Globe Banko, A Savings Bank," which is a mobile bank, BPI hopes to reach out to even the people who live on $2 a day or less.

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Yields on gov't paper won't change much, says study

By Rainier W. Dumlao

Strengthening peso may offset ill effects of inflation on rates

YIELDS ON GOVERNMENT debt paper are expected to change minimally in the remaining weeks of the year despite pressure from rising consumer prices that continues to grow faster in the past few months.

According to the latest study on the domestic economy from First Metro Investment Corp. and UBAP Capital Markets Research, the peso's appreciation due to the influx of net portfolio investment and remittances from overseas Filipinos will temper the effects of escaping inflation on interest rates.

"We expect yields to go sideways to generally," the study said. The stronger peso "may weak loan demand could more than [how] could be eaten by utility, which should raise demand for short maturity bonds."

The study noted that with the recent rejection of some bids for Treasury bills and bonds, the supply for government debt paper had become tighter as morning Dollarous not being replaced.

The study showed that from Sept. 28 to Oct. 12, the Bureau of the Treasury's offerings worth P20 billion received almost twice as much tenders, but the government awarded only 58 percent during that period.

National Treasurer Rolando G. Tan said that the rejection of tenders was due to investors' demand for yields that were not reasonable in relation to prevailing market rates.

"The market thought that the government would be forced to accept higher bids because of its increasing financing needs," the study said.

But what the government did last month was to turn to the foreign markets, issuing $1 billion in dollar-denominated 25-year global bonds.

Ironically, 25 percent of the proceeds came from buyers in the Philippines.

"We expect an increase in demand for any auction of government paper," PNB and UBAP said.

Also, the study said the easing of supply pressures in the aftermath of the global bond issuance, as well as inflows from the Japan Development Bank and the World Bank, tempered the financing needs for reconstruction projects.

"Around a third of reconstruction expenditures may come from foreign aid," it added.

According to Finance Secretary Margarita B. Teves, the latter estimates on damage from the recent storms was pegged at P30 billion.

Also, recovery and reconstruction efforts are expected to raise the economy.

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Nestlé: Something old is new again

By Dennis L. Lucas

PANDESMORE

CHANGE IS A CONSTANT challenge in the world of business—but perhaps none more challenging than it has been in recent years.

All over the world, the advent of technology and growing competition for market share have forced companies to change long-established practices and models to be able to survive and thrive.

Such was the case in the local unit of global food maker Nestlé, Nestlé Philippines S.A.

In a recent interview, Nestlé Philippines Inc.'s former chair and CEO Nanda Nandakumar explained how the firm turned itself from a large, humdrum multinational firm into a more nimble and agile organization, ready to meet challenges of a new business environment.

Radical changes

The just-a-day before he was to leave for the group's headquarters in Switzerland, where to serve as its senior vice president and global business head of infant nutrition.

During the interview, Nandakumar explained that the radical changes in Nestlé had actually started more than a decade ago, thanks to the visionary leadership of its then CEO, and now group chair, Peter Brabeck.

"In 1998, the then CEO basically mandated that the Nestlé brand must be [not] successful for 150 years," he said. "We executed around the world as an open-book enterprise."

He explained the company's business model as such: "We could take agricultural raw materials from one part of the world where there was abundance, apply process them into shelf-stable forms using technology, and market them to a different part of the world where they were not available."

Bigger and better

"This technology and access to agricultural raw materials basically gave arbitrage which enabled the successful growth of the company over 150 years," he said.

Under this system, Nestlé actually invented the technology for the manufacture of everyday food products like instantized condensed milk, milk chocolate and instant coffee, among others.

"All those things that you take for granted today ... were invented by Nestlé or invented by companies which Nestlé eventually acquired," he said matter-of-factly.

But a company cannot remain in an attractive market for very long without attracting competitors that are sometimes even bigger and better in the same field.

Nandakumar said the technology-based, agro-based conventional model that sustained Nestlé for the past century had rapidly become unsustainable as the technology became available in the public domain.

So the question was how could Nestlé a decade ago was how to stay relevant over the next 100 years?

In answer, Nestlé's bosses had to return to the roots of the company's mission.

"Nestlé's mission from its founding was 'good food, good life'," Nandakumar said. "It was all about producing products that somehow make life better for people. Delonging with this mission, Peter Brabeck-Letmathé said that any agro-product conversion model was probably not sustainable and need[ed] to be changed."

Redirection

Since the company had one of the largest investments in research and development, dollar-wise, among firms worldwide (at about 2 billion Swiss francs or 2 percent of its global sales annually), it decided to redirect those efforts into producing the next generation of food products that actually nourish and help make people well.

"If you think of a continuum of products from food all the way to pharmaceuticals, what [Brabeck] was saying was that we need to move nearer to 'nutraceuticals' where margins would be higher, because you have value added [to]," the Nestlé official said, adding that Nestlé Philippines nonetheless got onboard the plan.

The second, more challenging part of the journey ... organizational transformation.

"In the process of strategic transformation, we had a challenge: We were in a diversity of businesses from coffee to cereal, food to instant formula to ice cream, and even spices," he said. "In each of these businesses, you have competitors that tend to be very focused and very nimble and flexible. Some competitors are global, some are regional and local. Each one ... had its niche."

The challenge for Nestlé was to ensure that its size would not become a limitation to its growth.

"We had a fundamental choice," Nandakumar said. "[We had] big scale which could be used for efficiency and low cost modeling, which is one paradigm—the Dell computer paradigm. That works for them, someone mine and said what you need to do is stay relevant to be the apple, which is, you need to innovate.

"The question was: Are you going to be the Dell or are you going to be the Apple?" he said. "[Brabeck] basically said we would like to be both."

To do this, Nestlé broke up the organization to create business units which still function like technical companies. It will be their job to be the innovators, the "transformators," in the mold of the iconic Apple Computers Inc.

Slicing down

"We'll break it up from being a supermarket to being a field to of small, agile shops with a product range that ship whose job it is to know the lowest cost," Nandakumar explained, using another metaphor. "So you leverage scale and you free these guys to be nimble and agile."

By the time I came here in 2003, the company had already started on this journey," he said. "What I did was, I went out and preached to everybody Brabeck's vision [on] why we need to change and how we need to change."

The new vision was welcomed by the majority.

"I found that people were very willing to embrace the change," he said. "I find that Filipinos are very eager to embrace change."

The result is a revitalized Nestlé Philippines today.

"We have a hundred years of history in the Philippines. That's a hundred years of investments. I'm sometimes like me, the first thing you realize when you come in a class you over a huge debt to the generations who came ahead of you ... the people who built the company to what it is today."

Philex 10-month production to Oct. hit P7.9B

WELL OILED A Filipino fuel gasoline attendant refuels the tank of a fuel dispenser in a gas station in Makati City during Secretary Angelo Reyes's today will meet representatives from oil firms as well as various transportation groups to resolve issues concerning Executive Order No. 839 freezing the prices of petroleum products in Luzon. AFP/NOEL

Mining company sees its net income rising to P3B from P1.5B this year

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE COPPER-GOLD MINE OF PHILEX Mining Corp. in Benguet yielded minerals worth P7.8 billion from January to October, based on disclosed figures for the first ten months of the year.

Production in October raised Philex's total output for the first ten months of the year to 84 million tons of ore.

In a statement, Philex vice president for Finance Renato Magtibay said total value of gold, silver and copper produced in October was estimated at P890 million.

Of the total, gold accounted for P487 million, copper for P415 million, and silver for P8 million.

This is based on higher provisional metal prices of $1,042.25 per ounce of gold, $2.98 per pound of copper and $16.37 per ounce silver at the current exchange rate.

Philex earlier said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) that Philex's ore output reached 7,12,000 DMT in October.

The ore produced 1,324 DMT of ore containing 14.61 grams per DMT of gold, 24.92 percent copper and 55.47 grams per DMT of silver.

This, in turn, led to gold production of 8,593 ounces.

Philex also produced 2.92 million pounds of copper and 9,580 ounces of silver.

Philex's proposed operating life has been extended by another three years, from the previously declared 2014 to 2017, based on the proven reserves of the mine as of June 30, 2009.

According to the firm, the Philex mine has reserves of 7.6 million tons, at assumed metal prices of $800 per ounce of gold and $2 per pound of copper.

Philex has also doubled its budgeted net income for 2009 to P3 billion from P1.5 billion, from profits of P2.8 billion earned in 2008, on the back of stronger gold and copper prices.

The Firm explained that the higher projection is based on prevailing level of metal prices at around $950 per ounce of gold and $2.50 per pound of copper.

PNOC secures loan for energy service unit

By Amy R. Borja

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL Co. has availed of an $8-million loan from the Asian Development Bank to put up a new subsidiary that will help government agencies and private companies to become more energy efficient.

According to a ranking government official who declined to be named, PNOC is launching the so-called Super Energy Service Company (Super Esco) by December.

The first of its kind in the Philippines and Asia, Super Esco is expected to stimulate growth of the local Esco industry and provide a sustainable instrument for energy efficiency implementation in the government and private sector.

PNOC has been chosen to establish the Super Esco because its cluster of companies is ready to invest in projects that will generate income for the company, while fulfilling its mandate to ensure efficient use of energy resources.

The Super Esco project is a component of a bigger undertaking dubbed Philippine Energy Efficiency (5 Project (PEEP).

Under PEEP the Super Esco will act as financing guarantor for smaller Esco's undertaking projects for the private sector. ADB documents showed.

Among the services that the Esco may provide are audit of company equipment and facilities, joint financing, provision of energy-efficiency systems, cost-effective services, monitoring of operations and performance, and promotion of energy-efficient technologies and services.

The goal is to target heavy users of energy, and the challenge is to create value out of saving energy for the heavy users.

Depending on the agreement, the savings to be realized from reduced consumption will be split between the consumer and the Esco, or may be used for other energy saving projects.

The creation of the Super Esco is one of the energy efficiency projects that the government has lined up. In January, the ADB approved a $11.1-million loan to partly finance the PEEP.

PEEP is aimed at encouraging households and businesses to swap their incandescent bulbs for more energy-efficient fluorescent lights, among other initiatives.

Broadband operators get no perks from gov't

By Abigail L. Ho

GRIDDERS WAITING TO ROLL out broadband infrastructure in so-called takeaway areas will have to do so with no government subsidy, at least in the meantime, as the Board of Investments has yet to decide on requests for special subsidy and exemptions.

Ray Anthony Rosca-Ona II, chair of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology, said the proposal for incentives for broadband deployment was "still on the table," but no final decision had been made.

He admitted that the government needed to pitch in if it wanted to expand broadband coverage in the country based on industry studies, the Philippines ranked among the lowest in the region and the world in terms of broadband coverage.

"There should be some government intervention, but how involved should we be? What level of support should we give? That's what we want to determine from our ongoing study," Rosca-Ona said.

The World Bank had provided funds for the conduct of the country's Universal Broadband Access Study, which aimed to determine the best and most appropriate universal broadband access strategy for the Philippines.

Almost six months ago, the CICT had told the BOI of its request to provide tax breaks or other perks to broadband service providers that would deploy services in rural areas.

Rosca-Ona admitted that it would be "a challenge" to access such incentives, particularly at a time when government revenues were declining.

"But we'll still push for it. We believe incentives to operators and [Internet service providers] are important to encourage them to invest," he said.

WB urges service ...

From page B4

countries to the region decide to deregulate the services sector, this should be done carefully. Each country in the region has its own peculiar economic needs. The degree of deregulation should be made following an in-depth assessment of each country's particular needs.

Analysts said China opening the services sector to foreign players would benefit the Philippines because of the country's significant number of Filipinos wanting to migrate and look for job opportunities offshore.

Earlier this year, the Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) took effect.

The Philippines benefited because it was allowed to send more Filipino nurses, healthcare workers and other professionals to Japan. This partly addressed the problem of unemployment in the country. The labor needs of Japan, whose aging population is requiring more workers in the health sector, were likewise partly met.

Another benefit of liberalizing the services sector would be increase investments. Money sent by Filipinos abroad has made the Philippines the fourth biggest recipient of remittances after China, India and Mexico.

Remittances to the Philippines amounted to $16.4 billion last year, marking a 13.4-per cent growth on an annual basis. Remittances account for about 10 percent of the country's gross national product (GNP).

Besides easing the restrictions on the entry of foreign workers, Ulikan said another topic that should be discussed by Asia-Pacific leaders was a commitment to avoid the adoption of protectionist policies. He said that while protectionism might seem to be a solution to the problem of sluggish growth within the short term, this could prove to adversely impact on economies over the long run.

He said Asian countries would be more resilient to shocks, such as the recent global economic turmoil, if they would trade more with one another.

Countries in the region that were badly affected by the global crunch were those that were heavily dependent on exports to the United States and Europe, the drivers of the global economic downturn. When the Western economies suffered from a recession, some Asian countries that exported heavily to those markets—such as Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand—contracted as well.

The World Bank said that by trading more with one another, Asian countries would diversify their sources of export revenues and be less vulnerable to external shocks.

Berkshire Hathaway 3Q profit triples

OMAHA, NEBRASKA—PHOTO guru on derivative contracts helped Berkshire Hathaway Inc. triple its third quarter profit as its insurance businesses did well, but Warren Buffett's company said Friday that many of its other operating businesses struggled.

The Omaha-based company delivered relatively flat results in separate spreadsheet by its consolidated investments gains. The strength of its insurance businesses like Geico offset weakness in those investments in the economy like bonds and Berkshire's manufacturing businesses.

Berkshire said it generated $3.2 billion, or $2,087 per share, in net income. That's up significantly from last year's $1.1 billion, or $682 per share. The results don't include Berkshire's headline-grabbing $26.3 billion acquisition of railroad operator Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp., which was announced late Tuesday.

Most of the swing in Berkshire's earnings is related to an unrealized $1.3 billion gain on its derivatives, some of which are tied to credit default swaps and some of which are tied to equity markets. That compares with an unrealized $819 million loss on Berkshire's derivatives in last year's third quarter.

Excluding the investments and derivative gains, Berkshire's operating earnings were nearly flat at $2.96 billion, or $1,925 per share.

Operating profit at Berkshire's insurance underwriting business, which includes Geico and General Reinsurance, soared to $963 million from $61 million a year ago thanks partly to that year's relatively quiet hurricane season.

Berkshire's insurance units also reported better investment income of $979 million during profit of $774 million in the quarter, down from $1.1 billion a year ago.

The group of Berkshire manufacturing businesses that includes Acme Brick, Benjamin Moore paints, Shaw Flite and Iscar Metal working delivered sharply lower net income because of the recession. Those businesses generated $293 million in the quarter, down from $478 million a year ago.

Comparewhich, Berkshire generated $20.9 billion revenues in the quarter, up from $17.9 billion a year ago.

Through the first nine months of the year, Berkshire generated $5 billion, or $3,223 per share, in net income.

Berkshire owns more than 60 subsidiaries and it has major investments in such companies as Coca-Cola Co. and Wells Fargo & Co. AP

10% jobless, Obama's new world

WASHINGTON—FOR MONTHS HE TRIED worried it was coming but (but) didn't want the political shockwaves for President Barack Obama when unemployment topped 10 percent.

A year after his election Obama finds it increasingly difficult to blame the one economy on George W. Bush or offer reassurances that if times don't improve they will find work.

Never mind that the economy itself grew in the last quarter, that the recession, as measured by the gravest formulas used by economists, is over and that the number of jobs lost in October was less than one-third the number of job losses in the worst of his presidency.

Those claims about the economy's end do not convince people who remain painfully aware of the unemployment rate.

At 10.2 percent, October unemployment climbed to close-tapping heights (almost 16 more than a quarter century). The bottom line is that more than 15 million Americans are out of work and 7.5 million less their jobs while Obama was president. Expected or not, this is Obama's new reality.

"I want to let up until the Americans who want to find work can find work, and until all those states can earn enough to raise their families and keep their businesses open," the president declared Friday.

That's a hopeful promise but one any realistic soul it shows that, for the time being, action to tackle record budget deficits will simply have to wait.

Obama, appearing at the White House Rose Garden to deliver those hours after the jobless numbers were made public, said his administration was looking at additional spending for roads and bridges and energy-efficient buildings, additional tax cuts for businesses and steps to increase credit for small businesses seen about the bill.

The new unemployment rate also came on the same day Obama signed a $339 billion bill to extend jobless benefits and spur homebuying.

In a sign of bipartisan thinking, key Senate committee, said Democrats would consider new aid to states, an "infrastructure bank" to increase construction jobs and small business tax credits.

What all this amounts to is another stimulus for the economy. Though don't look for Democrats to call it that. Democrats have a tough enough time defending the merits of the $787 billion stimulus Congress passed earlier this year.

Republicans were quick to pounce on the proposals. Internal polling by the Republican National Committee after Republican gubernatorial victories in New Jersey and Virginia showed that Republican candidates could do well by arguing against additional spending while promoting job growth through tax cuts and rebates.

But in rhetoric and in deed, Obama is being forced to address an unemployment picture his economic team had long ago exposed as dire.

Many economists predict the jobless rate will rise again, peaking at 10.5 percent sometime next year before employment makes a turnaround in the spring. That still means unemployment will remain high for some time. The administration's own projections still see unemployment at 8 percent by the end of 2011.

Such lingering discomfort can have economic and political consequences.

Consumer spending likely won't increase rapidly. Foreclosures will continue to rise, hitting not just subprime borrowers, but prime mortgage holders as well. Commercial real estate lending, already teetering, could plunge in the face of rising vacancy and loan delinquency rates.

Politically, Democrats are staring at some damage—and the fear of triumphs more—themselves. Exit polls Tuesday in the New Jersey and Virginia Republican victories showed that the economy was the top issue in the minds of voters. And national public opinion surveys show that a majority of the public doesn't believe Obama's economic policies are working.

Despite that setback and losses by the president's party during midterm elections and Democrats have come to worry about their own seats.

The unemployment numbers mainly the fact that job losses slowed compared to past months—the work force went down by 190,000 in October compared to 219,000 in September. What's more, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said job losses in August and September had been overstated by 91,000.

In addition, the economy grew by 3.5 percent in the third quarter. And Christina Romer, a top Obama economic adviser, noted an increase in temporary service jobs. "That's often the first sign of firms kind of dipping their toe back into hiring people," she said in an interview with The Associated Press.

But since the start of the recession in December 2007, 7.3 million Americans have lost their jobs and key sectors—construction, manufacturing and retail trade—are still seeing significant declines.

White House officials have been helped by reports of flaws in the administration's count of jobs created by the $787 billion stimulus.

Six months into the job, Obama did not even try to lay the blame for the economy at Bush's feet, as he has in the past. His only criticism was implied.

"When we first came into office, our immediate goal was to stop the free fall that caused our economy to decline at an alarming rate," he said. "We've succeeded in achieving that goal, as our economy grew last quarter for the first time in a year."

But Obama has already taken ownership of the economy.

Republicans, he noted wryly during a July speech in Michigan, were eager to blame him for the economy.

"That's fine," he added, "Give it to me!"

Four months later, it would be hard to give it back. AP

Tackling record budget deficit will have to wait

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SU-137	Commercial lot (with building)	Quimpo Boulevard, Matina, Davao City	6,788	T-424596 T-424597 & T-424598
SU-216	Ten (10) mixed-used vacant lots	Barrio Matina-Pangi, Davao City	477.481	VARIOUS
SU-216F	One (1) residential vacant lot	LT 8B2 Gulf View Executive Homes Phase 2, Bago Aplaya, Talomo, Davao City	25.025	T-452467
NPL-L80	Three (3) vacant lots	Polanan Makar, General Santos City	286.339	T-122081 to T-122083
SR-007	Industrial Vacant lots	Makar-Sigsil Road, New Bohol, Calumpang General Santos	13.544	87551
SU-145	Commercial lots (with improvements)	Santiago Blvd. Bo. Lagao, Gen. Santos City	7,501	T-28892 to T-28913
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SBN-002B	Industrial & residential vacant lots	National Road, Brgy Tambler, General Santos City	40,000	77525 to 28
SU-170 & SU-350A	Residential vacant lots	Senantar Executive Homes, Curer Road, Lagao, General Santos City	165,910	VARIOUS
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Retailers to set trend for holiday season

NEW YORK—US RETAILERS are poised to defy gloom this week as earnings expectations have improved, but the big test will be when they say about holiday shopping.

Earnings estimates for Standard & Poor's 500 retailers have headed higher in recent weeks, some after October same-store sales figures were released last Thursday, leaving strategists optimistic about the fourth-quarter results.

The sector takes center stage just as the earnings calendar winds down, with nearly all ready to from almost 90 percent of S&P 500 companies.

Same-store sales were mixed. But several retailers expected to post results this week, including upscale department store chain Nordstrom, perhaped better than expected on the same-store sales front.

Past bellwether for this week's results, analysts said, but some mixed phone were swift, with the start of holiday shopping less than three weeks away, could be just as important to investors.

"It's all about perception going into Christmas," said Todd Leone, head of listed trading at Cantor & Co. in New York.

The S&P 500 is up 58 percent since its 12-year closing low in early March. But it's down more than 2 percent since mid-October, and investors are anxious to see if the market can hold those gains through the end of the year.

The Friday after the Thanksgiving holiday marks the start of the holiday shopping period, when most retailers realize most of their profits.

Third-quarter earnings for retail applied S&P 500 companies are seen rising 38 percent, compared with expectations for a gain of just 4 percent just three weeks ago, said John Butters, director of US earnings for Thomson Reuters in New York.

S&P 500 department store earnings are seen declining 40 percent, but that's an improvement from expectations for a drop of 54 percent weeks ago, he said.

Earnings for the entire consumer discretionary S&P sector, which includes most retailers, are expected to increase 44.7 percent from a year ago, compared with Oct. 1 expectations for a gain of 16 percent, Thomson Reuters data showed. Reuters

US airlines' revenue improved in October

NEW YORK—TRAFFIC FOR THE top three US airlines slumped in October but load factors—a measure of the nine largest carriers rose and the decline in unit revenue showed signs of slowing down.

Delta Air Lines' traffic fell 6.5 percent in October versus a year ago. The world's largest carrier said its load factor, a measure of how full a plane is, rose 1.6 points to 84.2 percent.

No. 2 airline AMR Corp.'s American Airlines and no. 3 carrier UAL Corp's United Airlines also reported traffic declines last month.

An FTN Equity Capital Markets analyst said Friday that unit revenues, a measure of profitability, did not fall as sharply in October as in the first three months, a sign that pricing actually may be improving.

"October unit revenue improved sequentially from the prior month," analyst Michael Derchin said in a note. "It now appears that June and September, but marked the double bottom in unit revenues in this important earnings driver."

US Airways said its considered unit revenue sank 10 percent in October, better than the 15-percent decline it logged in September.

For the industry as a whole, mainline unit revenue fell 14 percent in October, better than the 17.4-percent drop in September, according to Derchin.

"The revenue outlook continues to show material signs of improvement with continued strength in both close in bookings and yields," US Airways President Scott Kirby said in a statement.

Seven of the nine largest carriers cut capacity in October, typically a strong month for business travel.

Shares of US airlines as measured by the Arca Airline index rose 6.4 percent Friday. Reuters

INFOTECH

Sony Ericsson raises the fun factor in 3 new phones

By Charlee E. Bulaso

DURING LAST FRIDAY'S turnover of a check donation to search FI million to the Mobile Telecoms and Child Protection Programs of the United Nations Children's Fund, Sony Ericsson also unveiled three interesting entertainment-centric mobile phones.

Interesting because, instead of the usual alphanumerics, Sony Ericsson decided to christen them with "cute" names: Satio, Aino and Elm.

Satio, which means "I satisfy" in Latin, brilliantly continues full touch-screen capability and high quality camera resolution with high-end connectivity functionality.

Flagship phone

With its crystal clear 3.5-inch, wide 16:9 aspect ratio and vivid, high Definition (HD) screen—the mobile version of high-definition cameras—Sony Ericsson's flagship phone promises to deliver the best quality movies, TV series and video clips (VGA at 30fps video recording with video flash).

Imaging is taken to a new level, thanks to its 12.1-megapixel camera that also features Tru digital zoom, sensitive touch focus, Xenon flash, face detection and photo geo-tagging.

Since the Satio's 32GMB internal memory will never be enough to hold high quality pictures and video clips, the phone also supports microSD of up to 32GB.

The phone retails at P52,500.

Recreating PS3

If you love your PlayStation 3, you'll surely enjoy owning the Aino.

Sony has recreated the remote play feature that allows the Aino to online/stream/watch PS3 via its 802.11n/ NE connections, play media from a PS3 to the Aino or even use the Aino's camera to

PLAYSTATION-LOVERS will surely enjoy Sony Ericsson Aino.

a PS3. It comes with a matching Bluetooth headset and dual-sound charger).

But apart from being a "PlayStation phone," this P23,950 slider device is also equipped with other user-friendly multimedia features like an 8.1-megapixel camera with 16x digital zoom, autofocus, image stabilizer, face detection, LED flash and ability to record video clips in VGA (at 30fps).

Its 3.inch, 240 x 320 resolution screen is also touch-sensitive but only when you're working with media files/ camera menus.

Details nonetheless

Completing the list of phones unveiled in the Ritz (or Tint as it is known in other countries) Like the Aino, the Elm is also revolutionary in the sense that this slider phone denotes your movements and gestures such as front gestures that also acts as a mouse so you could play games similar to what Wii does with its Wiimote (you project it to it is stand in front of you to start playing).

But instead of a screen, you use hand gestures or body movements to play its preloaded games (like tennis and fitness).

The portable games react to your hand and arm movements, allowing you to swing your hand to hit a tennis ball.

But apart from its gesture gaming, the P12,990 Elm is also equipped with a good 5 megapixel camera with auto-focus and a single LED flash along with some more advanced features like an image stabilizer, smile detection and face detection.

REVOLUTIONARY slider phone Elm.

Upgraded media menu

The Elm also features an upgraded media menu that lets you select channels that change the look of the media player. There are a number of themes pre-installed, including a turntable, a CD deck, a cassette player and favourite looking radio).

Because it only has 60MB of internal memory, buying a larger capacity memory card is advised. Wi-Fi isn't available but the Elm has Bluetooth, USB and HSDPA connectivity.

Sony Ericsson also announced that the Satio, Aino and Elm come with exclusive content via the Sony Ericsson Infotainment Asia portal where one could get films from Sony Pictures, songs and music videos from Sony Music and game titles from the Gameloft Binary Godz platform hit games packed with a booklet of discounts and raffle coupons, including an opportunity to watch next year's FIFA World Cup in South Africa.

A new approach to counter Internet threats

GLOBAL SECURITY PROVIDER Symantec Corporation has officially released the latest version of its famous security product Norton.

Norton Internet Security 2010 and Norton antivirus 2010 feature a new approach in countering Internet threats through the use of Norton's 75-million strong global community network, giving users a powerful security armor for files or apps running on their PCs that were downloaded from the Internet.

Codenamed Quarium, the unique reputation-based security gathers information, such as the characteristics of particular file running on their PCs. The information provided by the millions of Norton users are sent to Symantec's "reputation calculator," which monitors if a file or application is good or bad.

Symantec consumer product marketing manager Ismil Fadlisadat Quarium gives users consumer PCs from bad files or apps delivered through the Web by providing download insights, such as recommendations of whether the particular file has very few users, unproven, and are recommended to be downloaded.

Add said Quarium won't replace Norton's other forms of security such as heuristics, signatures, and signature approaches.

"The last couple of years, the bad guys have been successful in the war between the good guys and the bad guys. The bad guys are creating malwares every day," said Add about the current threat landscape.

Symantec security researchers monitor 200 plus million attacks on average every month, the majority of which are never seen before (threats delivered via the Web.

The new Norton security products, which use less system resources, also feature faster scans. It also offers the Norton Safe Web, which shows part of the browser toolbar that automatically tells the user if the URL has a good reputation and safe to browse.

Suggested retail price for the Norton Internet Security is P2,079 for a three PC license and P1,260 for a single PC license. The Norton antivirus is priced at P1,260 for a three PC license and P1,155 for a single PC license.

Raquel P. Gamas

Droid joins 'Google phone' army in smart phone war

SAN FRANCISCO—THE MOTOROLA Droid smart phone joins the growing ranks of smart-phones on the open, mostly free software championed by Google, Inc.

With Droid, which will work on the Verizon telecom network, Motorola is taking on mobile device powerhouses such as Apple, Nokia and Research in Motion (RIM).

"People are purchasing to Android phones because they get different and trendy Droid may be one of the first phones," said analyst Rob Enderle of Enderle Group in Silicon Valley.

Internet-based HTC brought the first Android phone to market late last year.

Google chief executive Eric Schmidt recently proclaimed that the smart phone market was on the cusp of an "explosion" of Android devices.

Market tracking firm Gartner agrees, predicting that there will be at least 18 models of Android phones within a year, and that they will be the second place one, behind platform by the end of 2012.

Reports analyzed last Thursday that Verizon was poised to add an HTC Android phone to its roster.

"It's a few months Android will be the second most popular smart phone running neck-and-neck with Apple," Gartner analyst Van Baker told AFP.

Apple iPhones have become coveted devices since they were introduced in early 2007.

Droid devices are likely to pose more of a threat to BlackBerry smart phones made by Canada-based RIM than they are to iPhones, according to analysts.

"It's not an iPhone killer," Gartner vice president of mobile computing Ken Dulaney said of Droid.

Droid is built with a slide-out keyboards, which appeal to smart-phone users prone to typing as is the case with BlackBerry devotees, said Dulaney.

RIM is rising to the challenge with the release later this month of a Bold 9700 smart phone.

AFP

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Wall Street ready to rally

Investors looking for higher yields

LONDON—RISKY ASSETS SUCH as equities and emerging markets may have scope for another rally before the year is out as policymakers resort to pledges to keep economic borrowing costs at rock-bottom levels and flagging bonds and Treasury bills, investors are continuing their migration back to a range of higher-yielding investments and that is unlikely to reverse so long as official interest rates stay stuck bottom.

Finance chiefs from Group of 20 major economies meet in St. Andrews, Scotland for a two-day meeting which starts on Friday.

While there have been plenty of signs the global economy is recovering, world stocks suffered a setback in the latter half of October as some investors booked profits on the 71 percent surge of the MSCI world since March and shared bonds before the other volatile seasonal period.

The hiatus was confirmed by fund trackers who saw a brief return of investors to "risk" aversion earlier this week.

The concern eased last week about early or sudden reversals of near-zero interest rates in the major economies. The US Federal Reserve and other would reiterate how far an extended period and the Bank of England even increased its so-called quantitative easing, or money-printing, programme.

Also, last Friday's data showed the US economy lost a bigger-than-expected 190,000 jobs in December—sending the unemployment rate to high at 10.2 percent...and even fanned the view that official interest rates would not be changed.

This week's quarterly results from major European banks, including ABBC, Barclays and Credit Agricole, may also serve a reminder banks remain fragile and are not yet fit to cope with more normal monetary policy.

Global banks assisted IPH and US stalwarts IG and Manpower all contributed last week a fresh end of up to 100 billion from 10 money funds as that low-rate scenario was reinforced.

"We anticipate seeing the current period of weakness to rebuild equity weightings," Tibrian Rhoden, manager of asset allocation and strategy at Arbitration, said in a note.

According to Thomson Reuters data, third-quarter earnings of companies on the S&P 500 index have contracted at the rate of 15.5 percent on fall, better than the 27.3 percent contraction posted in the second quarter.

Fourth-quarter earnings are expected to swing sharply back to growth of 23.5 percent—followed by an expected 38.3 percent expansion in the first quarter of 2010.

Q3 earnings have generally surprised on the upside, with 61 percent of firms beating expectations. And this generally positive outcome appears to offering investors a big cause again after the setback.

Hanson said that markets are still experiencing the severe spas...ing, again economic growth and interest rates...and while policymakers have indicated rates are sustainable, and low rates will make sure they remain stimulus very gradually. Reuters

Opel chief leaves

FRANKFURT—GENERAL MOTORS Co. said last Friday the head of its Europe operations, Carl-Peter Forster, is leaving, after the automaker's decision to scrap a planned sale of its Opel unit.

Forster, the son of a German diplomat said a former BMW executive, had been widely expected to run the independent Opel that would have been split from GM in the sale of a controlling Opel stake to a Russian-backed group led by Canadian auto-parts company Magna International Inc.

Forster's departure marks the first high-profile exit at Opel since GM's board reversed course and said the automaker would keep the European unit and raise funds to restructure Opel on its own.

That decision touched off a storm of protest in Germany, where Magna had been seen as the best chance to preserve jobs.

Nick Reilly, current head of GM's international operations, is set to lead GM's looming reorganization of Opel, a person briefed on the plan said.

Reilly, a Briton, had worked as sales and marketing chief for DSI Europe before moving to Asia to run GM operations there.

His appointment was seen as a temporary move, the person said.

Meanwhile, Bob Lutz, who agreed to defer retirement earlier this year to head GM's global marketing efforts, will become chair of the Opel supervisory board, a second person said.

Lutz, 77, already sits on the Opel board and will maintain his current management responsibilities.

GM declined to comment on those moves. Reuters

JAL's survival hinges on big pension cuts

TOKYO—FINE TUNING AFTER winning from Japan Airlines Corp., former pilot Yoshimi Watanabe is fighting a tougher battle: one he was promised but that the airline can no longer afford to pay.

JAL's pension shortfall, which is estimated at 320 billion yen ($3.6 billion) in March, is threatening to push Japan's largest airline into bankruptcy unless its 15,000 retirees are forced to have their pension cut, lawyers and analysts said.

JAL had said it would apply for aid from a state-backed corporate fund. It could receive a large injection of public money from the fund if it can recover the backing of creditors and come up with a viable restructuring plan.

That plan hinges on addressing its pension problems, for which there is no obvious solution.

JAL President Haruka Nishimatsu made a plea to the company's pension fund in May for payments to be reduced by more than half, and the airline has already factored a 600 billion yen gain from the move into its profit forecasts for this financial year.

A government-led task force that had been working on a JAL revival plan ahead of the shortfall could be cut to 320 billion yen if the annual interest rate on pension reserves was cut to 1.5 percent from 4.5 percent, sources have told Reuters.

Those proposals have reportedly stirred strong opposition from retirees and employees, who under current laws can easily block any cuts to their benefits. If just one-third of them vote against.

To get around this, the government is considering legislation that would allow JAL to forcibly cut pensions, but implementation would be tricky as it would be interpreted as violating a constitutional protection of personal property rights.

Not all agree.

"I don't think it's unconstitutional and the argument about protecting property rights in pensions is a valid one," said Kazumasa Otsuka, a lawyer specializing in corporate legal affairs at Mitsui Company. "If this can't be accepted, then there is little chance that the JAL debt to be transferred to the taxpayers." Reuters

A JAL spokesman said the airline was working with the state-backed Enterprise Turnaround Initiative Corp. of Japan and would not comment on the possibility of a court-led restructuring.

A bankruptcy would likely cause more pain for creditors, which include the state-owned Development Bank of Japan and the country's top three private banks.

The task force has estimated creditors could recover just 2.3 percent of their loans in bankruptcy, as opposed to 20-30 percent if the restructuring goes out of court. Reuters

BPI . . .

From page B7

internationally competitive poverty line and by unbalanced development.

BPI is hoping to generate a critical mass of clients, about 500,000, for the new mobile remittance banking unit, which will be powered by affiliate Globe Telecom's electronic G-cash system.

The expansion of electronic banking services to all customers of no- or low-frills banking operations, illustrations added, was making banking easier, cheaper and convenient for the poor.

"You don't have to use an ATM machine to go to the branch. Technology is a big means of saving your time, saving energy saving Oil [coolest disaster] resources," he said.

And sure for BPI's physical banking offices, Almodovia said the goal was to reduce energy consumption.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

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1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is an international development organization owned by its 67 members, including the Philippines. It receives funds from its Ordinary Capital Resources and Asian Development Fund resources, among others, to finance its various projects and programs.

2. The Contractor shall provide ADB with the best goods needed and efficient technical services for the replacement of fully rigged passenger/cargo/combi/freighter aircraft and supervision in accordance with the specifications, terms of reference, and other requirements of the Invitation to Bid (ITB) and its attachments.

3. Bidders may participate in this procurement regardless of their country of origin, subject to the restrictions pursuant to ADB's Procurement Guidelines against the ineligible countries and those declared ineligible by the United Nations Security Council.

4. The Contractor shall provide the following goods and services:

(a) Aircraft and engines more than one unit of ATR72-500 (turboprop) and Airbus A320 (jet) aircraft;

(b) Spare parts/aircraft repair equipment as a warranty requirement, and as a post-warranty requirement for the period after the warranty in order to maintain a satisfactory level of operational performance and maintaining technical data and other related services;

(c) Training services of 10 pilots and engineers employed by the airlines mentioned in item (a) above;

(d) Technical assistance for preparing criteria and/or requirements of aircraft and aircraft engines;

(e) Technical assistance in preparation of specifications for aircraft and/or engines and other related services as listed by ADB.

5. This procurement notice was published first in the office of the Asian Development and Contracting and Procurement Unit, Philippine Resident Mission, Manila, Philippines. Bidders should be in the official address, from 8 November 2009 to 18 November 2009 on any working day (from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). Upon presentation of the proper identification, bidders may obtain the ITB and its non-refundable fee of Philippine Peso Equivalent (PHP) 500.00 at the address stated below. Bidders may also download the ITB from ADB's website.

6. A pre-bid conference will be held at 9:00 a.m. on 18 November 2009 at the above address.

7. Bids must be issued ADB and taken from 9:00 a.m. on 9 December 2009. The Invitation may also be delivered to the Procurement Unit, ADB at the address in Paragraph 5 and 10:00 a.m. on the above date and will be opened.

8. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process, and reject all bids at any time prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders or any obligation to inform the affected Bidder or Bidders of the grounds for ADB's action.

9. This invitation letter will not bind any commitment on the part of ADB, which may take at its own cost. Any cost of preparation of the bid will be borne solely by the Bidder.

Asian Development Bank ADB

dti

DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 09-06
Series of 2009

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES ON WARRANTIES ON ENERGY EFFICIENT LAMPS AND BALLASTS

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7394, otherwise known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines, declares that it is the policy of the State to protect the interests of the consumer, promote his general welfare and to establish conditions of conducive fair and honest dealing in the economy;

WHEREAS, under Republic Act No. 7394, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is mandated to, among others, adopt, enforce the coverage on consumer product and service warranties;

WHEREAS, Advisory Order No. 03, Series of 1993 implementing Executive Order No. 913 as amended, is amended by Department Administrative Order No. 10, Series of 1994, to include the warranty provisions of Republic Act No. 386 otherwise known as the New Civil Code of the Philippines, as amended, particularly Articles 1546-1547 (Law on Conditions and Warranties") and Articles 1561-1564, 1566, 1567 (Law on Warranty against Hidden Defects of or Encumbrances upon the Thing Sold") on Trade and Industry and making it subject to the rule-making and adjudication powers of the DTI;

WHEREAS, the Philippines as a signatory and party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is undertaking a project, through the Department of Energy (DOE), aimed to eliminate the barriers to widespread utilization of energy efficient lighting (EEL) systems in the Philippines and, consistent to this objective is to help standardize requirements for the use of EELs in the country;

WHEREAS, the adoption of this Guidelines will enhance consumer protection from substandard and defective lighting products while at the same time better warranty provisions can boost consumer confidence in EELs and ultimately effect its widespread use in the country;

WHEREAS, in view of the foregoing, there is an imperative to amplify the provisions on warranties being implemented by the DTI specific to energy efficient lamps and ballasts;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the provisions of the Consumer Act, the following Order is hereby prescribed for the information, guidance and compliance of all concerned:

Section 1. Scope and Coverage

The Administrative Order shall be applicable to all manufacturers, importers, distributors, traders, dealers, wholesalers, retailers and consumers of energy efficient lighting products (EELPs) such as compact fluorescent lamps, circular and compact, high intensity discharge (HID) lamps and ballasts (electromagnetic and electronic) as defined in this Order.

Section 2. Definition of Terms

For purposes of these Guidelines, the term:

2.1 Energy-efficient lighting products" shall mean the use of artificial light to replace the optimal level it might be from lowest energy consumption such as fluorescent lamps, and high intensity discharge lamps including circular and compact fluorescent lamps.

Also, these "Energy efficient lighting products" shall posses the mandatory performance and safety requirements implemented by the government:

a) "Fluorescent lamps" are discharge lamps of low pressure mercury type, in which most of the light is emitted by one or several layers of phosphors excited by the ultra-violet radiation from the discharge. These include compact, linear, and circular lamps, widely used for general lighting at home and offices.

b) "High intensity discharge (HID) lamps" are electric discharge lamps where the light producing arc is stabilized by wall temperature and the arc has a bulb wall loading in excess of three (3) watts per square centimeter. These include the group of lamps known as high pressure mercury, metal halide and high pressure sodium lamps.

c) "Ballasts" are devices connected between the supply and one or more discharge lamps which serve mainly to limit the current of the lamp(s) to the required value. These may include means for transforming the supply voltage, controlling the power factor and, either alone or in combination with a starting device, provision the necessary conditions for starting device, and provides the necessary conditions for starting the lamp(s).

2.2 "Warranty" shall include the manufacturers, importers, distributors, traders, dealers and wholesalers/retailers of energy efficient lighting products.

2.3 "Warranty" shall mean a contract, whether express or implied, between the buyer and the warrantor of energy efficient lighting products concerning the rights and obligations of both parties in a consumer sale.

a) "Express Warranty" means any affirmation of fact or any promise by the seller relating to the energy efficient lighting products if the natural tendency of such affirmation or promise is to induce the buyer to purchase the same, and the buyer purchases the same relying thereon.

b) "Implied Warranty" means rights and duties conferred on the parties in a contract in sale proceeding from the nature of the contract or from the law.

Section 3. Terms of Express Warranties

3.1 Express warranties on energy efficient lighting products shall be written in clear language, either in English or Filipino.

3.2 Express warranties shall, among others:

a) conform to the terms of warranty and clearly identify the warrantor;

b) clearly identify the safety warranties ensuring that lighting products comply with the mandatory performance (e.g., average life) and safety requirements stipulated in the existing Philippine National Standards (PNS) and its future revisions;

c) state what the warrantor will do in the event of a defect, malfunction of failure, to conform to the terms of warranty, and at whose expense;

d) state what the consumer must do in event of the rights which accrue to the warranty; and

e) stipulate the period within which, after notice of defect, malfunction or failure to conform to the warranty, the warrantor will perform any obligation under the warranty.

3.3 Express warranties cease by the warrantor shall be operative from the moment of sale.

Section 4. Duration of Warranties

4.1 In case of express warranty, the seller and the consumer may stipulate the period within which it shall be operative. In the absence of express warranty or mechanically accompanies an express warranty, both will be of equal duration.

4.2 Any other implied warranty shall not be less than one (1) year following the date of new energy efficient lighting products.

Section 5. Minimum Standards for Warranty

5.1 The warrantor of energy efficient lighting products shall either the consumer to replacement of such lighting products or part, as the case may be, at no additional cost and without charge in case of defect, malfunction or failure to conform to such written warranty.

5.2 The warrantor will not be required to perform the above duties if he can show that the defect, malfunction or failure of the energy efficient lighting product to conform to a written warranty was caused by damage due to unreasonable use/misuse.

Section 6. Enforcement of Warranty Rights

6.1 The warranty rights can be enforced by presentment of a claim. To this end, the buyer needs only to present to the manufacturer, importer, distributor, trader, dealer, wholesaler, or retailer, as warranty and along with the lamps and ballasts or any other product replaced. No other documentary requirement shall be demanded from the purchaser.

6.2 In case of breach of express warranty, the buyer shall be entitled to have the goods replaced.

6.3 The retailer shall subsidiarily be liable under the warranty in case of refusal of both the manufacturer and distributor or trader the warranty. In such case, the retailer shall shoulder the expenses and costs necessary to honor the warranty. Nothing herein shall prevent the retailer from proceeding against the distributor or manufacturer. Specifically,

a) If the immediate seller is the manufacturer's factory or showroom, the warranty shall immediately be honored.

b) If product was purchased from a distributor, he shall likewise immediately honor the same.

c) In the case of a retailer other than the distributor, the former shall take responsibility without cost to the buyer in presenting the warranty to the distributor in the consumers behalf.

Section 7. Prohibited Acts

7.1 The following acts are prohibited:

a) Refusal without any valid legal reason by the local manufacturer or any person required under the warranty on guarantee issued;

b) Unreasonable delay by the local manufacturer or any person required under the warranty or guarantee in honoring the warranty;

c) Representation by any person of a product's warranty information for the purpose of evading such warranty obligation;

d) Any false representation in an advertisement as to the existence of a warranty or guarantee.

Section 8. Sanctions. Findings of violation of any provision of this Administrative Order, after due process hearing, shall subject the violator to administrative sanctions as provided provided under the Consumer Act, Department Administrative Order No. 7, Series of 2008, and Department of Trade and Industry's schedule of fines.

Section 9. Repealing Clause. All orders and issuances which are inconsistent with this Order are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 10. Publication and Effectivity. This Order shall be published in two (2) newspaper of general circulation and shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication.

Issued this 3rd day of November 2009 at Makati City, Philippines.

Approved:

(Sgd.) PETER B. FAVILA
Secretary

Recommending Approval:

(Sgd.) Asst. Dir. JANE LAGARO L. ILMOD
Director-in-Charge
Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection

(Sgd.) ZENAIDA CUSON MAGLAYA
Undersecretary
Consumer Welfare and Trade Regulation Group

BUSINESS Monday

Profit no longer enough for Ayala group

By Dominic L. Lutao

IT IS NO LONGER just about making money. The new name of the game is doing business in a way that looks after the welfare of the people, protects the planet and produces decent profits—all at the same time.

That said brothers Jaime Augusto and Fernando Zobel de Ayala who, together, run the helm of the country's largest and oldest conglomerate, Ayala Corp.

Speaking to the media in a press briefing last week, both men unveiled the new sustainable development theme of the group which—it is hoped—will become the raw manner of all Ayala firms that will carry them into the next century.

According to the elder Jaime Augusto, Ayala, propelled by his mantra JAZA, has been around the world have received "a bad rap over the years" with the public's trust in them being eroded by various scandals and stories about corporate greed.

Amid this backdrop, he pointed out his belief that businesses can be a postdiction force for change through the use of sustainable development initiatives.

"But unless we move toward a more progressive agenda in the very set do business, then it will not survive in full," JAZA said. "So [sustainable development] is our way of charting a progressive path."

A new way forward

Yet, even for Ayala Corp.—generally acknowledged to be the most progressive industrial house in the country when it comes to doing business "with a conscience"—it was not always this way.

Almost every year, during the annual stockholders' meeting of the Ayala Corp. holding firm, JAZA would repeat one of the group's philosophies, which is that the various firms under the group have to be either the number one in their market or, if the very least, a strong second one (admittedly, something that has been harder and harder to achieve in recent years with the advent of aggressive business rivals in almost all of the group's markets).

For the longest time, Ayala executives were known as quick-to-moving machines who were almost single-minded in moving income outputs of their respective firms—a philosophy that has allowed the conglomerate to stay at the top of the corporate heap amid a rapidly changing Philippine business landscape.

According to JAZA, however, the group that was founded 175 years ago will now have to modify its "tried and tested" corporate formula in order to survive and thrive for the new century it is in.

Because of recent developments and the growing awareness that people worldwide are living in an unsustainable way (one Earth consuming the equivalent of 1.4 Earths, pointed out Ayala senior managing director Jaime Ayala), the Zobel brothers believe it is time to take business practices a step further.

"Business is no longer just about profit and loss," JAZA said. "It's an engine for growth, but there's a whole new responsibility that comes with it."

"If you look at our listing—and we all want to attract [investors]—managers and politicians—it's always focus about growth," he pointed out. "If you listen to the head of any country, they're always preaching growth. If you listen to any corporate leader, it's about growth."

"We look at what's happening. We have a growth agenda, yet limited resources, in the more sensitive globally for those limited resources," JAZA added.

Beyond governance

According to the younger Fernando, the initial response of the business world to the move [to a corporate] has been many of going business wise to implement corporate governance standards...is set of rules by which companies pledged to behave by certain moral and ethical norms.

Having been successfully adopted by many Philippine corporations (although admittedly still severely lacking in many others), the community is now moving toward the next stage.

"Businesses are now going way beyond governance and talking about what their footprint is in society. [is he accountable for] the implications or impact of their actions as businesses," said Fernando, who is president and COO of Ayala Corp.

"For a very long time, businessmen's sole friend has been profitability and growth," he noted. "I think what you're starting to see is a more balanced approach."

For the Ayala group, this means pursuing more aggressively the so-called "triple bottom line" of making good on terms of its impact on profit, people and the planet—an altogether new measure of corporate success.

This year, six companies of the group—Ayala Corp., Ayala Land Inc., Globe Holdings, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Globe Telecom and Manila Water Co.—published reports using the global reporting initiative (GRI) reporting guidelines.

This marks the first time that a local conglomerate has published this kind of report focusing on indicators like economic performance, indirect economic impact, energy consumption, water use, emissions and waste, products and services, employment practices, education and training and product responsibility.

Sustainability summit

The results of this report will be highlighted during the Ayala group's "Sustainability Summit" for its senior officials that will be held tomorrow at the Manila Peninsula Hotel in Makati City—an event meant to provide direction and additional impetus for its companies to make significant adjustments to their strategies, business models, products and operations.

"The sustainability report is widening the framework on that on the economic front, we're saying it's not just about profit," JAZA said. "It's also about employment number; it's about the taxes we pay, the capital expenditures and investments we're making."

"It is also about the social impact, how we're affecting communities and finally there's environmental impact," he said. "We're taking this new way of looking at the business engagement and it deserves its own report."

Make no mistake, however. This does not mean that Ayala executives will no longer fight too to see their corporate rivals for dominance in the local and international business arena.

According to the Zobel brothers, this simply means that, in addition to worrying about producing healthy profits, they will now have to worry about society and the environment as well.

Talk about pressure.

JAIME Augusto (left) and Fernando Zobel de Ayala chart new course for the 175-year-old Ayala group

RP's oldest business group seeks to do right by its people, planet

Conglomerate adopts 'triple bottom line' approach to measuring success

Family comes first for rich Filipinos on vacation

RP beats Korea, India, Singapore, Taiwan, says Visa survey

AFFLUENT FILIPINOS LOVE the getaway likelihood to go traveling with their families over all other affluent people in Asia Pacific, according to the results of the Visa Spending Patterns and Perspectives of High Income Households Survey.

The survey found that 84 percent of affluent Filipinos respondents prefer traveling with their families, the highest percentage among all Asia Pacific countries and territories included in the survey.

Korea came second at 40 percent, while India, Singapore and Taiwan tied for third at 40 percent.

The Visa Spending Patterns and Perspectives of High Income Household Survey covered 3000 people from the Philippines.

All respondents were aged 18 and above, with equal gender split, and with an income of at least P1,000,001 a month.

The same survey was also conducted in big and small markets in the region such as Australia, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China and India.

The survey also found that close to half of affluent Filipino respondents looked forward to pursuing pastimes and hobbies in the near future, with 78 percent of them naming travel as their key passion.

Eighty-three percent of Filipino respondents said they tend to go traveling only once every six months or less.

Visa Country Manager for the Philippines Rob Joubert said, "The results of the survey show how important family is to affluent Filipinos."

This extends to traveling as where affluent Filipinos travel they make sure that they get the most out of their travels by sharing the experience with their loved ones."

For Filipino respondents, long stay travel tends to be more popular than weekend breaks.

The United States was found to be the top destination (51 percent), followed by Hong Kong (26 percent), Australia (22 percent) and the United Kingdom (21 percent).

As part of catering to affluent earning high incomes, Visa offers its Visa Platinum program.

Visa Platinum cardholders can get more from their travel budget and experience by using their Platinum card in any of the partner merchants included in the improved Visa Platinum Program 2009.

Visa often offers dining, shopping, and wellness privileges and benefits from 22 new local partner merchants, which include 10 percent off on basic car rental from AVIS, a 10-percent discount on hot installer rates at Discovery Suites Hotel and a 15-percent discount off rack rates at Manila Diamond Hotel.

The new Visa Platinum Program 2009 brings the total of 80 merchant selections to the Platinum cardholders.

Mobile phones affect work/life balance

By Gina Hechanova and Norma Bolano
Contributor

WORKPLACE WISDOM

CONSIDER THIS COMMON SCENARIO: It's early Monday morning and we do a final check of the stuff we have to use bag: car keys, wallet, mobile phone.

On our way to work, in the midst of the traffic buildup, we glance at our phone to check for missed calls and text messages.

As we settle down on our desks piled with work left over from the previous week, we place our mobile phones in a special corner as we cast glances at the screen every so often.

As the day progresses, we use the device to answer text messages and voice calls.

An emergency meeting comes up and what do we bring with us to the conference room? The mobile phone on silent mode.

The mobile phone has become such an integral part of our lives.

To find out how the cellular phone has indeed affected our lives in the workplace, the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development carried out a study asking survey respondents work-related questions regarding its usage, functions and use.

Mobile phone use at work

A total of 169 readers responded to the survey. Of the respondents, more than half (54 percent) said that the cellular phone is sometimes useful for the kind of work they do, 24 percent admitted that they cannot work without one, 9 percent responded that they can work fine without the cellular phone.

Only 8 percent mentioned that cell phones distract them from work-related duties.

The majority of respondents (61 percent) said that they entertain business-related calls after office hours, and yes, during weekends. A third responded that they only entertain business-related calls if there is a sense of urgency.

Company subsidy

Given that a large number of respondents appear to use their phones for work, does the company provide cell phone subsidy?

Three of four responded that they spend for their own use (my phone, my expense). Only 11 percent said that their company provided the phone, less than 9 percent are given allowance for phone expenses and the remaining 7 percent get reimbursed for business-related use.

When it comes to cost, half responded that they spend less than P500 on business related phone expenses. A third spend between P500-01 and P1000, around 15 percent use up P1,001.00 to P2,000. The remaining 3.6 percent spend more than P2,500.

The cell phone phenomenon has been an object of interest and wonder for researchers because of its unexpected wide acceptance in Europe and Asia, especially in the Philippines. Why is it such a hit?

First is the cost. Unlike its predecessors that only catered to the rich and famous, this device has become affordable to everybody, regardless of socio-economic status. Second would be its size and mobility. A communications tool that can fit in someone's pocket and thus, can be carried around anytime and anywhere. Cell phones have compensated for the absence of pay phones and landlines, especially in far-flung areas.

And third, the short messaging service or texting feature has made communication surpass the boundaries of space and time. People no longer have to meet face-to-face to discuss issues and events. With the cellular phone, one carries the power to be connected yet disconnected at the same time.

Caveats

Despite their popularity and functionality, there is a downside to cellphones as well, especially for employers.

Findings show that most organizations do not subsidize cell phone expenses even if the cell phones are used by employees for work-related matters. This means more out-of-pocket expenses for employees who do have cell phones.

Perhaps in the future, cell phone allowances should be included among employee benefits.

In addition, results show that majority of users attend to calls or messages even outside office hours. This may make it more difficult for workers to establish work-life balance.

We have heard horror stories of how bosses call their staff at ungodly hours, making their employees feel they are on-call 24 hours of the day. On the other hand, some employees also complain about invasion of cell phone during work hours. To prevent this, organizations should consider articulating policies on cell phone use.

Challenge

What is apparent is that the cell phone is both here and here. However, like it or not, they are here to stay. What employees and organizations need to do is learn how to maximize its use without letting it disrupt the balance between personal and work life.

The authors are faculty members of the Ateneo de Manila University. This article is an abridged version of a study published in the Philippine [illegible] Journals, ADMU, 2007). To know more on issues pertaining to technology in the workplace, attend Ateneo CORD's Trend-watcher series on Nov. 6, 2009. For inquiries and reservations, please email cnr-research@admu.edu.ph)

Take the performance of your iPod to the next level.
SoundDock® 10 digital music system
Experience a performance for your iPod or iPhone so powerful, you have to hear it to believe it. The SoundDock® 10 digital music system. Designed with exclusive Bose® waveguide speaker technology, it delivers a generous range – from the deep lows of the bass line to the soaring highs of a vocalist. The clarity of the performance is one you may never have heard before from a sound system for the iPod or iPhone. In fact, the sound of this elegant, one-piece design even rivals that of a large stereo system. An optional dock lets you enjoy high-quality sound with your stereo Bluetooth® music phone.
Hear our best-performing digital music system for yourself. Listen once, and you'll hear why there's no other system like it.
www.bose.com
Made for iPod Works with iPhone
NEW Introducing the SoundDock® 10 digital music system
SoundDock® 10 Bluetooth® dock
BOSE
Better sound through research.

The human CEO

CEOS often get asked the trite question: "What keeps you awake at night?" The macho but equally buckwheat reply invariably evolves around the company's internal weaknesses and threats in the business.

This answer is neither wrong nor debatable but it is incomplete. It makes one the CEO to be exclusively wired for business and totally devoid of life outside the corporate suite.

Why doesn't anyone speak that he stays awake until his wandering son comes home from a late night party with the boys?

CEOs are human.

Inside them is a child capable of an infantile tantrum, a loving husband steeped, and a doting father enamored.

My good friend Leo, a CEO par excellence, is all three.

New assignment

Several years back, he got home very late and inebriated from another of his many flings.

On the drive home, he excited by looked forward to a much needed rest after many late nights of chasing the business deals of his life.

As he walked into the dimly lit dining room, he saw a handwritten note from his eight-year-old son beside a white illustration board and a crumpled hand paper on which was awkwardly drawn his family unit.

The note read: "Papa, my teacher told us to draw our family tree on a white illustration board. The assignment is due tomorrow morning. I tried doing it myself but my drawing is so clumsy and unsightly. My classmates are teasing their dads or older brothers do it for them. Mama says you draw very well. Can you please save me from any embarrassment by drawing on the illustration board what I did on hand paper?"

The drunkard stirs in the tousled bedroom where his new bride and his wife second asleep hugging each other. His son appears very sweet to feel concerned about the unfinished assignment, treating completely that his father would come to his rescue. Leo's head melted. All at once, the alcohol left his brain and his tiredness disappeared. Guilt overcame him and he felt like pushing his son out of bed and hugging him till he choked. A flood of "what if's" inundated his mind. What if he came home too drunk and too sleepy to even notice his son's note? What if he got home agitated and snarling from the early corporate battles of the day? Would his son's request even merit some space in the egocentric head that was preoccupied with mega-deals and presentation expenses rubbish?

As he drew on the illustration board with the same intensity that had always distinguished him as a professional, he realized how liberating and satisfying it could be to apply oneself to an, drawing driven by motivations other than corporate pay or social recognition. Within an hour, he beamed wide-pride as he put the finishing touches to his effort. He nearly laid it on the table for his son to gleefully show the next morning. He was confident that his work was going to be thoroughly appreciated without any one doubting his motives.

How wonderful it was, he mused, to work in a place like home where people had no hidden agenda, where the players freely and excitingly gave of themselves, and where everyone knew his unique role enough to enjoy it with gusto.

CEO of the house

Alas that night, he re-indicted himself into a role he had previously abandoned: CEO of the house. The moment of truth came when Leo's son asked him to help him hang the illustration board with the new masterpiece on it. Instead of his usual impatient and condescending self, he was all ears and eyes to his son's every word. Can you please save me from any embarrassment by drawing on the illustration board what I did on hand paper?"

The drunkard stirs in the tousled bedroom where his new bride and his wife second asleep hugging each other. His son appears very sweet to feel concerned about the unfinished assignment, treating completely that his father would come to his rescue. Leo's head melted. All at once, the alcohol left his brain and his tiredness disappeared. Guilt overcame him and he felt like pushing his son out of bed and hugging him till he choked. A flood of "what if's" inundated his mind. What if he came home too drunk and too sleepy to even notice his son's note? What if he got home agitated and snarling from the early corporate battles of the day? Would his son's request even merit some space in the egocentric head that was preoccupied with mega-deals and presentation expenses rubbish?

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BUSINESS Monday

What's in store for the Philippine economy?

The people have made their choice...

MARAMING SALAMAT PO!

2009
AUTO FOCUS
PEOPLE'S CHOICE
AUV OF THE YEAR

ISUZU CROSSWIND

ISUZU ALTERRA

2009
AUTO FOCUS
SPECIAL AWARD
BEST ON BOARD
ENTERTAINMENT SET-UP

1ST RUNNER UP
AUTO FOCUS
PEOPLE'S CHOICE
LARGE SUV

ISUZU
Your responsible partner

By Raul Nicolas S. Torres
Cebu Bureau

IN SAMUI, AN ISLAND OFF Mindanao, the ride from Sayak Airport to the town of Lian takes almost one hour over 30 kilometers of paved and rough-roads that skirt around mountains, grazing land and mangroves.

Despite the island's relative remoteness, Alex, the driver I commissioned on my arrival that there, was knowledgeable enough to explain to me and my companions how tourist arrivals to the island have slowed down because of the global financial crisis and the A(H1N1) virus—tourism has become the main source of income for the local population.

Clearly, the issues that are worrying hundreds of economic powerhouses are also on the minds of regular folks in the remotest places.

And yet, due to the very nature of forecasts and projections, experts, and people like Alex, cannot agree on what the future holds for the Philippines.

A couple of realizations can be gleaned from our driver's comments.

First, that this is indeed the information age, where no one has an excuse not to know what is going on beyond the world's borders, that the world economy has become so integrated that even a flu strain that first became endemic in Mexico can eventually affect the livelihood of people in Samar.

Least affected

Compared to its neighbors, however, the Philippines may be one of the least affected by developments in the economies of the developed countries.

Our economy hasn't stumbled as badly as our other Asian neighbors, but in the same token, we also haven't grown as fast as those economies during boom times.

In the current global financial crisis, for example, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand have been hardest hit in the Asean region, with negative growth rates in the first half of 2009. On the other hand, the Philippines is one of three countries (aside from Indonesia and Vietnam) that registered positive year-on-year quarterly real growth rates in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) among the major Asean economies for the so-called Asean-5.) True to form, however, the Philippines' growth rates are generally not as high as the other two countries (see chart). The obvious question begging to be asked is: What's so different about the Philippines and what role will such differences play (if at all) in the country's recovery from the current economic crisis?

Different economy

The answer to the first part of the question is actually relatively very easy: the Philippines is indeed quite different economically from the Asean-5. Except for Indonesia, the Philippines has the lowest ratio of exports and total transactions (trade in services) to output among the Asean-6—29.4 percent and 63.4 percent, respectively, in 2008. The country has also consistently attracted the lowest level and growth rate of foreign direct investments. Taken together, these characteristics make the Philippines the least integrated to the world economy among the Asean-6.

Thus, when the economies of the developed countries began to stall and recover, the impact on the Philippines was not as severe.

This is not to say that the country is completely unaffected. On the contrary, there is another conduit through which the impact of the world economy is most directly transmitted to the Philippines: remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

In 2008, remittances from OFWs reached $16.4 billion; that's the fourth largest in the world.

According to the World Bank, the ratio of remittances to the Philippines from abroad to the country's GDP has been steady at about 13 percent per year over the past six years, the highest among East Asian countries. It has often been believed that the dollar remittances (their private consumer spending in the country, which represents 70 percent of GDP. While this is good for economic growth in terms of statistics, it does not really have a positive effect on future

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LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

AUDRA
Cameron as Sweeney Todd and Marsha Lauenborgen Tabi as Mrs. Lovett

Rep's latest production is 'a potent and shocking piece of work'

'Sweeney Todd'–the musical, not the movie–in Manila this November

By Walter Ang
Contributor

THE MOVIE MUSICAL "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street," directed by Tim Burton in 2007, generated mainstream awareness for the Stephen Sondheim musical.

It starred Johnny Depp as Sweeney Todd; Helena Bonham Carter as Mrs. Lovett; Alan Rickman (Professor Snape in the "Harry Potter" movies) as the antagonist Judge Turpin; and Sacha Baron Cohen ("Borat" and "Bruno") as comic relief Pirelli.

Sweeney Todd returns to London after being imprisoned on false charges. When he learns from his former landlady, Mrs. Lovett, that his wife killed herself after being raped by the Judge who had arranged him, he vows revenge.

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'Sweeney Todd'—the musical, not the movie...

From page C1

Repertory Philippines will stage the musical at Onstage Theater, Greenhills 1, Nov. 13-Dec. 13.

Given Tim Burton's quirky filmmaking style, the movie version did not scrimp on blood and guts.

"But the musical is not just about that," says director Michael Williams. "The movie was more like a horror slasher movie. It cut down the songs, took out the chorus parts and a lot of the lyric orchestrations. Come watch our staging to get the full version where you'll hear all the great songs."

Menolisa Lumabeque-Tolo played Todd's daughter Johanna in Rep's 1982 staging, which had Josita Imperial as Sweeney Todd and Bobi Hurtado as Mrs. Lovett. This time, Tolo plays Mrs. Lovett.

"This musical is really a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for audiences because they will get to hear Sondheim's very complicated but extremely beautiful music. The songs go from super low to super high Do. There is even a song with an part harmony in dissonances. It makes the actors sound like they're off, but they're not," says Tolo.

LAUGHINGSTOCK Pala-pala's Pie-in-the-Sky on Bolton, who goes in to sing "Not While I'm Around"

Powerful story

Sondheim is a multi-awarded composer and lyricist for stage and film. He's won nine Tony Awards (more than any other composer), including the Special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement. He wrote the lyrics to "West Side Story" and "Gypsy" and was composer/lyricist for "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," "Into the Woods."

While this is not the usual Christmas fare from Rep, it is nonetheless a production with a strong cachet. It premiered in 1979 on Broadway with Angela Lansbury (of "Murder, She Wrote" and Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" fame) as Mrs. Lovett. Scandalized for nine Tonys, it won eight, including Best Musical.

Aside From its music and awards, Williams notes that the story is "fabulously powerful" and "can move audiences." The story has themes that may appeal to educators and parents, such as family, love, capitalism, moral injustice, class struggle.

"It shows how society and environment can drive a person to the extreme," he says. "The story is set during the Industrial Revolution. People were working and living in really bad conditions in 1930s London. Enough the use of coal was banned under penalty of death, businesses still used it, anyway. That's why if you watch movies set in those times, London is always portrayed in dark and foggy because of all that pollution. People got pneumonia and consumption.

"Against this backdrop, the story shows how all of these things can dehumanize you. You can get caught up in the system. Politics, bureaucracy, abuse of power and big businesses can eat you up. It shows how revenge can consume a person. Todd's circumstances and the things he does are exaggerated. Killing people and making them into pies is absurd and extreme, so if you pick up on the dark humor, it's actually funny in a bizarre way."

"Audiences can even discuss the importance of quality control in food establishments," he adds with a laugh.

'This is the full version, where you'll hear all the great songs,' says Michael Williams

Good theater

Andre Tiongco, who plays the titular character, says "There are things we see every day and take for granted. We've become cynical. It will be interesting for audiences to experience the musical on stage, because to see live actors say it stirs you, it helps you understand and get closer to the story. It's a potent and shocking piece of work. It is impossible for you to remain unaffected. See your chat—this production really has good vision and it's good theater."

Tolo is excited that long-time fans of Rep and new audiences will get to see "a side of the old and new." Staff the cast are seen in their Rep productions by Rep.

"It will give audiences a different flavor. Everyone is learning from each other and making things fresh," she says.

Franco Lucod is playing the romantic lead Anthony opposite Lesa McKenzie as Johanna, while Bobby Enderes is Pirelli.

The artistic team includes John Bustamante for lighting design; Gino Gonzales for costume design; and Mio Infante, who recently designed the set for Tuesdays' "NOISE," for set design. Gerard Salonga will conduct the Philharmonia orchestra.

"Sweeney Todd" runs Nov. 13-Dec. 13. It's open for buyers who wish to use the show as a fundraising event or as a Christmas gift for employees or clients. Call 8857032, 15367752 or 09177.3286765.

Christmas gala concert at Manila Cathedral slated on Dec. 3

THE 4TH MANILA CATHEDRAL-BASILICA Pipe Organ Festival Gala Concert will be on Dec. 3, 7 p.m.

The concert (tel. 3271796, 3273889, 0917-5142911) will feature the biggest church pipe organ in Southeast Asia with almost 8,000 pipes, and will be enhanced by the participation of Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra with well-known Austrian conductor Ernest Hoetzl.

The concert will gather 150 voices in a combined choir to sing Christmas carols with the accompaniment of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra and to be conducted by Amelita Guevara.

The concert will be one of the major closing activities of the 50th anniversary of the postwar Manila Cathedral, which was dedicated in December 1958.

The concert is also a fundraising activity to benefit the Manila Cathedral's restoration projects and the victims of typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng.

It is coordinated by the Manila Cathedral-Basilica Foundation and organized by the Friends of the Manila Cathedral.

FRIENDS of the Manila Cathedral take their oath of office

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Filipino film on rape and myth to compete in Cairo

By Gary C. Dealino
Contributor

MYTHS DEFECTING VIOlence against women and the glorification of men who perpetrate such violence abound. There are the classic Greek myths about Leda, in Europa, Cassandra, Philomela, and Kalisto, all raped by gods and kings.

Some say these myths are indicative of the triumph of patriarchy against matriarchy in early societies, and others say these are objectless symbolic resolutions of universal conflicts.

In Tim Tupaz's "Ang Panggagahasa kay Fe" (The Rapture of Fe), which won the Special Jury Prize winner in the recent 5th Cinemalaya Film Festival, myth becomes our collective trauma and history as the film narrative weaves our past and present, personal victimization and political consciousness.

The story is about Fe, an overseas Filipina worker who has been retrenched as a consequence of an ailing global economy. As the smart set are already confronting the classic anxiety against the contradictions of modern economy, as DFWs, in particular female DFWs, become the ultimate objects of neo-millennial desire for sex, fabulation and commercial fantasy of modernization and development.

Hence, the rape of Fe is the violence committed by homosexuality inadequacy and contagion, and the injustice intrinsic ultimately to a global market economy.

Like all cases of rape, a victim suffers not once but in successive and recurring instance. Here, Fe is also a battered wife, as her husband Dante beats her up on mere suspicion of having an illicit affair with her previous boyfriend, Arturo. The story, therefore, attempts to weave the political with the personal, the allegorical rape with domestic violence.

But the story does go from the usual to legacy since the film also enwishes the magical and supernatural, as one of Fe's lovers in the end is a kapre, a local mythological creature who abducts women. This part is the crux of the film's controversy.

Viewers tend to pathologize Fe since victims of domestic violence can become psychotic, and thus the happy opposition can only be understood as one of her hallucinations. Such understanding of the film is a dead giveaway.

'Ang Panggagahasa kay Fe,' Special Jury Prize winner in Cinemalaya Cinco, is a provocative, insightful movie

More than myth

However, myth is more than a good literary device.

Thus, the film is not just an allegorical narrative, but also one dimensional of myths in general, our inability to accept other realities, and our refusal of the supernatural and otherworldly.

We construct Fe mercilessly as we would realities our personal past, such that It's would has nothing to do with us, irreconcilable with our so-called modern sense. We want to believe we are rational and have banished all forms of superstitions and folk beliefs.

In truth, our experiences of modernization through urbanization and global economy has always been one of hauntings in which the supernatural and the ahistorical exist along with our coherent experiences.

Ultimately, myths can be the last refuge of women, victims and the many realities like Fe. This is the reason that "Panggagahasa" is not translated as the "Rape of Fe" but rather as the "Rapture of Fe," since rapture connotes the opening of myth itself, as it spreads and fulfills various degrees of savage, historical, collective or other selves.

"Panggagahasa Kay Fe" will compete in Cairo Film Festival on Nov. 19-28, and be exhibited at Osian's Cinefan Film Festival in New Delhi, Pakistan International Film Festival, and Chicago Film Festival in December.

A grand night of flute music

By Pablo A. Tariman
Crest Roster

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME since one had encountered a concert entirely devoted to flute music.

To be sure, there were other flute events to which one never had the chance to watch.

But last week, along came Grenby's protégé Flutist Robert Aitken, who collaborated with local flutists in a unique program that showcased the lyrical flute music and rendered yet to an all-flute orchestra.

For the occasion, the organizer movie Ringo Chan, founder and music director of the Hong Kong Flute Centre Orchestra, to conduct. For his orchestra, the 12-member group of the Philippine Flute Society did the honors.

Spotted in the flute orchestra were the country's finest flutists — Enrique Barredo, Christopher Gracias, Antonio Molpeo, Santiago Rogers, Sue Saco, and Agustina Reyes Montano.

The concert was a splendid Philippine-Hong Kong-Canada concert premiere.

The initial image of Aitken as chamber musician came to the fore on the first part as he played C.H.E. Bach's Hamburger Sonata in C Major; Georges Hue's Fantasie for Flute and Piano; Franz Doppler's Andante et Rondo for Two Flutes, with Caitlin Contreve; and Prokofiev's Sonata in D Major for Flute and Piano, Op. 94.

The segment of Aitken and the young Canadian in the Doppler piece was the perfect confirmation of infinite musical wisdom and youthful dynamism.

The Bach and Hue openers gave lyrical sweetness a superb taste of Aitken's musicality and his ability to work with a 10-flutist was greatly accommodated in the Doppler number.

Excellent notes

In the first part, one also got an excellent survey of pianist Ursicino Cortinas as chamber musician, especially in the complete but equally tenacious Prokofiev sonata. Here, one really got a vivid observation of the full resources of the Duo's an-equal part-ner of the piano.

Unique for phrase, Gomez married Aitken's consistency and power, and even managed to show how both a flute and piano could make a sound boggling ensure come to life such as it was.

"When the flute orchestra opened with Brandenburg's Concerto No. 3 (arranged by John Iorio), one got an inkling of how the evening would turn out.

When Aitken appeared as soloist of Mozart's Andante for Flute and Orchestra and Doppler's Fantasie Pastorale Hongroise, he shook the hand of the flute "concertmaster," which elicited mild amusement from an audience not used to an all flute orchestra.

There was no question Aitken shone as soloist and the orchestra proved a could promote the flute is a grand master Chan lived up to his specialty as flute conductor, and even managed to acknowledge the "unsung hero" of the unique flute production who was no other than Aimee Cojuico, husband of Cristine and father of Caitlin Cojuico.

Unbeatable

The concert had many things going for it. It had an unbeatable soloist: the program was crowned with such good taste; and the musical collaborators with Canada and Hong Kong obviously were very well. It had a well-penned program with all the flute inputs yourself.

Spearheaded by the Philippine Flute Society, the HDD and the Clarion Chamber Ensemble, the concert would likely run away with the honor as the flute event of the year.

On another note, the RDE Music Center is now making its presence felt on the music scene by allowing use of its Bosendorfer Piano Model 225 for this concert.

For a population of over 90 million, it's a big surprise that good pianists can only tally on less than 10 good pianos in the entire country (now, don't be surprised why Lizad brings her own piano on as far as Lanang, Tagorgarao and Lugaji City for outreach concerts).

There are privately owned: one was bought by GBH, in the tune of 95 million and given to the UP College of Music. The rest of the good pianos Placido Domingo and Andre Previn have personally endorsed are at the RDE Music Center.

Call 89175280042.

Feast of chamber music

A special concert on Nov. 30, 8 p.m. at the Philamlife Theatre will feature tone-lonely virtuoso, pianist Najib Ismail, cellist Renato Lucas and violinist Gita Mutiha.

The program includes Schumann's "Dichterliebe" (Poet Love); Schubert-Liszt's "The Ist King" (following); Chick Sachmo's "Units of the Wicked Spirit"; Wagner-Liszt's "Liebestod" from Wagner's "Tristan und Isolde"; and the grand finale, Mozart's Piano Quartet in G K 478.

Call 5295115.

All You Need Is Loaf

In this day and age, everything is simply too fast-paced. People don't have the time to think of good food, much less prepare it. We find ourselves in a sea of instant everything: from no-cook noodles to potato chips to other things that hardly constitute a healthy meal. But what else could we eat that would be quick and affordable as well? Good thing we've got a simple answer to our simple slice: bread.

A lot of things pale in comparison to bread coming sliced. Rightfully so, as bread is one of the best things you can feed into your system. It's quick to prepare, it tastes good, and it's an excellent source of essential nutrients for good health too.

The dietary fiber content in bread promotes proper digestion. Bread can help decrease gastrointestinal problems, lower your cholesterol, regulate your blood pressure and glucose levels. It could help you feel fuller faster, and that could keep you from overeating. Bread can be snacked on, a healthy alternative that could help you keep your weight under control. It can also provide you with complex carbohydrates that your body can convert into energy, necessary to get through the day. A lot of commercially-available bread is even fortified with Vitamin A, iron and folic acid. Basically it's a huge chunk of wellness packed into one tiny slice.

We eat rice daily, sure, but we love our bread. Just look at our pan de sal. We have it for breakfast. We smother it with butter or we dunk it in our coffee. We slather cheese on it, cover it with fancy spreads, and tuck in it a slice of ham. We have burgers for lunch and sandwiches for snacks and many people love it on its own. Get creative. The possibilities are endless.

So if you are on the lookout for prime sources of goodness, just eat bread. It doesn't take a whole lot to take care of your health. Aside from getting enough sleep and exercise, you should make sure that you eat the right food. You can definitely be assured that with bread, you're better fed.

Because you know exactly what you're looking for.

324-8888

Wataboshi, unique international music fest for the disabled

By Sorin L. Rating
Contributor

FOR ALMOST TWO decades now, Audessius Go, a blind young adult, has led artistic talents like him to preserve the country as the Wataboshi Music Festival, which started in Kyoto, Japan.

Recently, he again led the Philippines and brought the ambassadors of Light (SOL) to the unique festival.

Participated in by artists with disabilities from 11 countries, the concert, now at Greenhills, South Korea, was a showcase of music and traditional dance numbers.

Go, who started attending the festival in 1993 at age 22, is the first ever blind School of Music outstanding graduate of the Philippine Women's University.

Despite his disability, he was accepted not as a special student but as a regular student in a class among visually normal students, majoring in Voice. He is a holder of a Music Teacher's Diploma in Piano from PWU.

The Philippine entry to the festival was "Sing Unang ng Isa, Mamasé" (City of Natures), which Go composed and was interpreted by Grace Gamot, also visually impaired and the principal soprano and soloist of SOL, and Salvador del Rosario Jr., who recently graduated from PWU with a degree of Bachelor of Music, Major in Voice.

Gamot, a 2nd year Music student of St. Paul University of Manila who has backed for her involvement and contributions in the field of music for the visually impaired, also serves as an associate musical director of SOL.

Their dramatic and powerful interpretation of the song elicited thunderous applause from nearly 1,000 audience that filled the Gymnagic Arts Dream.

Accompanying pianist was Jerry Medina, conductor of St. Paul University Choir. Also a PWU alumnus, he is a academic faculty of St. Paul Manila, choir ranger and a concert pianist, he serves as ASL assistant musical director and pianist.

Completing the Philippine delegation were Geraldine T. Orino, AGIA board vice chair and president of PWU Alumni Association, and this author.

THE PHILIPPINE delegation with Hatsuo Yao (standing, second from right), Father of Wataboshi Festival, at the opening ceremonies. (Seated) Eduardo del Rosario and Grace Garnet (standing) Joey Medina, Geraldine Dizon, Audessius Go and the author

Vietnam delegation

The Vietnam delegation was composed of disabled Nguyen Thi Vinh, a lyricist and guitarist, and singer Thuy Tinsi, modeled, a poignant love song, "Love Song in the Rain."

Vinh said he composed the song in commemoration the love he had for a girl who gave him a strand of her hair as a token of her love after they had a break off as her mother objected to the friendship. "I composed this song on one of those rainy/hellish rainy nights—it rained outside, it rained in my heart and in my mind," he said.

Their is affiliated with a younger disease that has debuted her beautiful face and speech. She has not allowed her malady to stop her passion for singing. She is now working on her second CD.

Representing the Malaysian team were visually-impaired Lai Chee Chan, a composer and pianist, and Pua Hiing Hai, a lyricist and vocalist; and wheelchair bound Sridhi Rafi and Kuan Beenie de Silva.

Sridhi, solely, "I Want to Know," tells the conflict in "letting go" of loved ones as they can fulfill their dreams and of "holding on."

"The chorus, bridge and end of the song try to depict the many conflicting emotions that one feels in the process: Reluctance, uncertainty, hope and love," Rafi explained.

From Japan and China

A haunting and touching song, "Believe," was the entry from Hata, Japan, rendered by lyricist Sadahiro Harumi and composer Ueda Keijiro. Both suffer from higher brain dysfunction. The song tells the story of Saga Sadahiro, who has the same affliction after figuring in a car accident.

Keijiro explained it was "possible and easy to work with Harumi and create this song because we share the same disability."

In rendering the song, which expresses support of family and friends, giving them encouragement to face the world, both hope the audience "can able to hear the voice of our hearts."

Hangzhou from the host country.

The thing that comes to us is pain

Together we'll hear this harsh reality

Thought that now we to see conscious pain

But Anybody tears I was wrong

As I looked up after looking hurt to myself

I saw people who smiled and watched me

Thank you, thank you, thank you

Just as beautiful and touching was the song "Tomfollen Player," composed by Liuke Wang Ming Tsan from Hong Kong, who was lost in prematurity, causing vision loss and an intellectual disability.

"Although we may be different in abilities, music provides us a vehicle for social inclusion," Liuke said.

"Thanksgiving from the Heart," the entry from Mongolia, tells about the strength of the blind people. It was sung by visually impaired Li Wanheng, a champion flutist.

It was written by physically disabled and multi-awarded artist Da Jia.

Similarly enthralling the audience were the performances of artists from Seoul, Bangkok, Jakarta, Kaohsiung (China), Mongolia and Kathmandu.

The inspirational song "I Am Alive" was the entry of Imahi Lifestyle Support Services, composed of physically and visually impaired artists from Brisbane, Australia.

A seven-member singing group with sighted and able volunteers **sampan** and treated songs in partnership with Asian-AIDS, which aims to provide opportunities for song writers with disabilities to participate in local and international music event like Pinakbet Festival.

The festival was founded in 1976 by Clarence Tsao, who named the festival after the word of the dandelion. Thirty-three years after its founding, the unique musical event is now in full bloom and known worldwide.

A Deliciously Memorable Dessert Experience with the new Red Ribbon White Forest

Desserts may mean different rules in our lives they are not a luxury most, they're the perfect part to end a cup of coffee. they help us in our saddest moments, they're the perfect companion to relaxed moments with friends and, perhaps, many more. If there's one thing that can be agreed on desserts, though, it's that desserts are the perfect surprise to delight our taste buds. Definitely, with so many desserts options available in the market however, the search for the perfect dessert to give and share with your loved ones can become so easy-said.

From the traditional and time-honored innovative dessert favorites such as Chocolate Marquise, Brownie Chocolate Cake, and Cookies and Cream with Oreo, Red Ribbon gives us another sure favorite, the new White Forest. The Red Ribbon White Forest brings together creamy white chocolate delicious cherries and moist white chiffon-fanny favorites that will leave a delicious, yet memorable dessert experience to successfully delight your loved ones.

The new Red Ribbon White Forest is made with creamy white chocolate and moist white chiffon cake. The delicious combination may sound ordinary and a bacon of cream and white chocolate flakes. The cake is generously covered with beautiful cream mixture & topped with delicious cherries, red maraschino cherries. It is generously finished with moist to cover the cream mixture and cake. Choose White, but then delight with the unique, light taste of the newest cake from Red Ribbon. This memory of your family favorites is definitely a sight to behold and taste.

The new Red Ribbon White Forest cake is available in Regular (20cm) and Jumbo (25cm) sizes. Visit any Red Ribbon store near or call 8-7777 for delivery within Metro Manila.

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

It's Book Month!

National Book Awards on Nov. 14 at Ayala Museum

NOVEMBER IS BOOK MONTH AND THE National Book Development Board (NBDB) is holding it with focus on local talent with "Calling Pinoy, Readers! The 13th Philippine Book Development Month" celebration.

Listen in the country's most exciting young writers talk about their craft in the "How to Read" lecture series on Nov. 10 (Poetry), 11 (Fiction), and 12 (Creative Nonfiction).

On Nov. 14, writers and experts from different fields will talk about the contributions of the late National Artist Nick Joaquin to Philippine literature and the Filipino way of life in a series of lectures on "Reading Nick Joaquin."

Join international prize-winning Pinoy writers Miguel Syjuco (winner, 2008 Man

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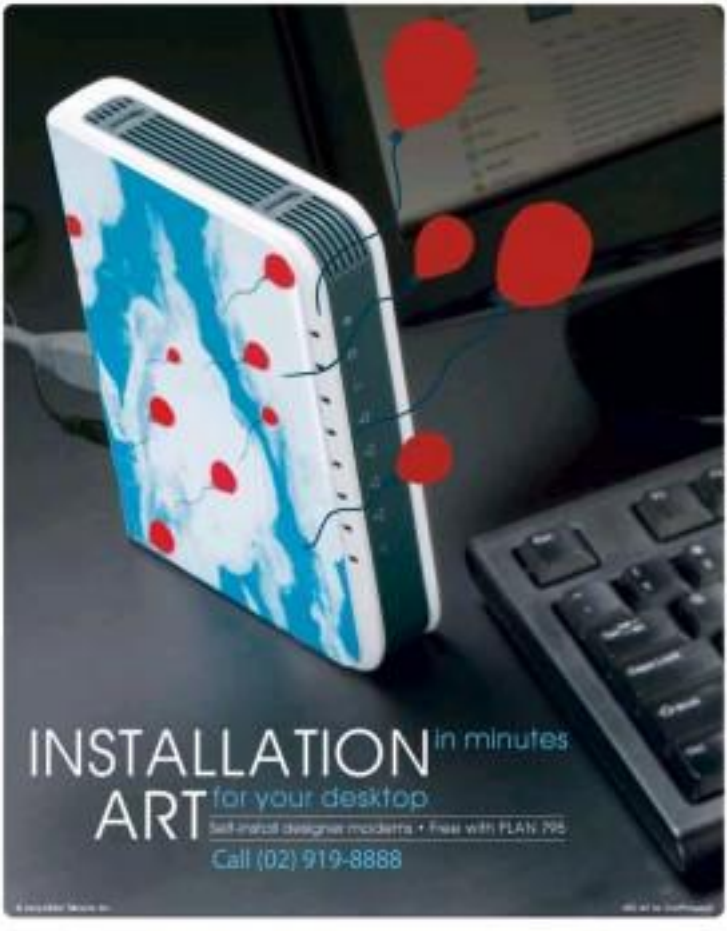

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BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

3	9	4		1		8	6	2
7								3
6		8				1		5
			2		9			
5								4
			7		4			
4		1				3		9
2								7
8	3	7		2		4	5	1

Difficulty: Easy

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

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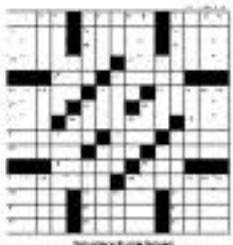
5	6	4	1	7	3	2	8	
9	7	3	8	2	9	6	4	1
3	8	7	2	9	1	4	6	5
1	4	6	5	3	7	2	1	9
1	2	5	9	4	6	7	8	3
7	3	2	8	1	6	9	5	4
6	1	9	3	5	4	8	7	2
5	4	8	7	9	2	1	3	6

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Two New Hidalgo Books now in bookstores

TWO NEW BOOKS OF CHEFF on Enrique Hidalgo, "Cooking for the Philippines" (UP Press) and "Travels with Tanya" (LIT Publishing House), are now available in major bookstores.

Hidalgo, a much-awarded historian, has published over 20 books and edited several others. His six early collections of travel essays mainly describe Tanya Hidalgo's sojourns in different countries in connection with the foreign postings of her husband, writer and publisher Antonio Hidalgo, during his many years as a United official.

"Cooking for the Philippines" is a collection of 12 essays, covering her trips in different parts of the country. "Travels with Tanya" consists of nine essays recording trips to Cambridge in the UK, Australia, Indonesia, Singapore, Virginia, California and New York.

Hidalgo refers to these two new releases as "travel memoirs," because they combine observation with reminiscence.

Asked why anyone will read travel books today when anyone can be a traveler, through cable TV and the internet, she replies: "For the same reason that one will read any good book—for the encounter with an interesting mind and with the ability to present experiences with insight and skill."

Both books are available in National Book Store and Power Books branches, UP Press Bookstores and UST Publishing House.

Hidalgo teaches Literature and Creative Writing at UP and is vice president for public affairs.

Must-reads

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS 2010 has a lot of new things—from **free downloadable content** (videos, photographs, screensavers and interviews), **photographs**, fully updated records, sections and record **decade celebrating the first decade** of the 21st century, to a brilliant new "**steampunk**" **graphic novel** design.

Meanwhile, "Ripley's Believe It or Not: Seeing is Believing," is a compendium of incredible bizarre facts, stories, interviews and features all presented in a stunning bright new design.

It features more than **guide readers to** accessing video clips on the new Fully integrated website; a dramatic eight-page gatefold **section showcasing some** extraordinary perfection of the past; and additional black-and-white Ripley archive photographs.

Guinness and Ripley's are available at National Book Store. Check out Facebook, Twitter and Friendster for exclusive offers.

It's Book Month!

From page B1

Saint Literary Prize), Ovidiu Abad Zialcita (Premio Novesia recipient), José V. Bellaso Elizalde, 2007 Miss Asian Literary Prize), and Alfred Yuson (Dualist, 2008 Miss Asian Literary Prize), in "Celebrating the Global Pinoy" on Nov. 14.

So—in an overnight adventure and savor the food, art, and culture of southern Luzon by visiting the most exquisite art galleries and restaurants in Laguna and Quezon during the Food and Writing Tour on Nov 7-8.

On Nov. 23-26, Greenbelt 3 Park in Makati will be transformed into a haven for book lovers and art enthusiasts with the **Books and Art Festival, which will feature a** book fair, and panel and artists' performances.

Watch celebrities and artists perform selected chapters of Palad's "El Filibusterismo" a sequel to last year's marathon reading of "Noli Me Tangere" on Nov. 28.

Ten Mindanao-based universities and publishers, be part of the NBDB Academic Publishing Conference on Nov. 19-21 at Ateneo de Davao University. Foreign archival experts, including Google's Erik Hartman, Dr. Lo Salle's Raquel Cruz, ADMU's Eleanor Bayton, and the UP Press' Ida Lumen Cumagun, will be sharing their experience on the latest trends in book publishing.

Schedules may change. Call the NBDB at 9209853, or the Filipiniana Heritage Library at 9811600.

Kenneth Cobonpue, Royal Pineda and Budji Layug will redefine the standard of living in Makati.

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Signa

'Indio' Bravo

By Rael S. De Vera

Lovingly restored and collected, Francisco V. Coching's masterpiece 'El Indio' is a stunning epic of adventure and romance in any century

THE TALE OF HOW FRANCISCO V. Coching's "El Indio: A Graphic Novel" by ONBuk Foundation, Quezon City 2009, 375 pages) came to be reconceived as a graphic novel is a fascinating story by itself.

Comics creator Gerry Alanguilan, who had devoted himself to the preservation of komiks as an art form, had been dreaming of gathering a revival band komiks creators to create books for a new generation of readers. He had his heart set on "El Indio," Coching's serial which originally ran in Pilipino Komiks in 1951.

REVIEW

When he approached Coching's family, he thought that "El Indio" would not be the ideal choice because it was actually a sequel to Coching's "Tubao, Ang Barbaro." But as this surprise, not only did Coching's family ask him to do "El Indio," they even provided him with a complete set of loose sheets of the serial, making its scanning possible.

Alanguilan was overjoyed. "The artwork is far more accomplished here than in 'Barbaro' and represents more fully Coching's formidable drawing and storytelling skills," he writes.

Then, Alanguilan and his assistant Xtos Blanzuelo set about restoring the pages; the decision was made to strip away the colors, leaving only Coching's magnificent linework in black and white.

Thus "El Indio: A Graphic Novel" gathers the entire story for the very first time in a single volume, when Alanguilan describes as "Francisco Coching's finest work," gratefully brought to print by the Filipi Foundation, featuring a foreword by Coching's widow Filomena and an introduction by Alanguilan.

Engrossing

Visual realism, it is a remarkably engrossing and well-crafted tale of secret identities and the perils of romance, rendered in beautiful detail by a true master of the craft. It is plain to see why readers avidly anticipated the next chapter of the 33-part tale two weeks before; "El Indio" is irresistible.

After the events of "Tubao, Ang Barbaro," the Visconsorte Blanquito Baron de Haraa had returned to the conquistador with the child of the Filipina rebel Salud, also known as Dayfara. The boy named Don Fernando, is raised to become a gentleman of amazing skill at being a swordsman and a bullfighter, but is taunted because of his brown skin, called "Indio." Blanquito decides to keep the identity of Fernando's father from him, telling him the father was dead.

But when a former lover of Blanquito confronts the Viscount Fernando with the truth, even Blanquito is forced to reveal that Fernando is indeed the son of the Filipino rebel Salud. Overwhelmed by the revelations and spurred by the stories of his visiting Filipino friend Antonio Luna, Fernando sets sail for the Philippines, where he hopes to find his mother, his father and set things right.

Upon arrival in Manila, Fernando is smitten by the sumptuous beauty Victoria Rivera and courts his rival for her affection, the hot-headed captain of the Guardia Civil, Martin Castillo, who is also secretly the former rebel Salud, and thus, Fernando's father.

But Castillo does not realize who Fernando really is and while impressed with the Viscount's skills, does not trust him. Soon, Fernando joins the band of rebels led by the mysterious Tenyente Tagumpay, and learns the identity of the masked bandit: El Indio as he courts the local Spanish governor.

All of these elements must come into dramatic conflict as father and son come into violence, not knowing the truth, the affection of Victoria is gained then lost, while the Filipinos struggle under the yoke of their Spanish rulers. This back-to-an-epic, almost Shakespearean conclusion where everything comes to light under gun smoke and steel. Will Blanquito's nightmare of his son unknowingly killing his father come to be?

Entertaining

What an entertaining, one-for-top tale Coching has written, full of genuine surprises and constant cliffhangers. It would make for an ambitious and impressive miseries. The rich historical context in "Tagumpay Nation" and Coching's powerful linework ensure that it is the epic of a true Filipino komiks master.

It is a wonderful opportunity to be able to enjoy this resurrected epic, and one hopes that "El Indio" will only be the first of many great Filipino komiks stories to be collected and published for readers who never knew the wonderful mythologies they represented. Francisco V. Coching's "El Indio" is the perfect work to signal this brilliant new beginning.

Available in leading bookstores.

UST conference focuses on teaching of literature

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS will host "Visions and Articulations: The Carolina E. Garcia Centennial Conference on the Teaching of Literature" on Nov. 19-20 at the Tanghalang Teresita Quirino of the UST Graduate School.

Organized by the UST Department of Humanities, UST Literary Society, UST Graduate School, and UST Venturians, the conference pays tribute to the late well-loved literature professor Carolina G. Garcia, who was the mentor of several generations of writers and teachers in and out of UST.

The conference is part of UST's academic celebrations leading to its 400th anniversary in 2011 as state's oldest university.

The keynote lecture of the conference will be delivered by award-winning writer Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo. UP professor Gemino Abad is the public affairs head while former student of Garcia at UST A remarkable discussion remembering Garcia as a "teacher's teacher" will feature Dr. Florentino Hornedo, Dr. Milagros Tinio-Rivera, Dr. Cirilo Bautista and Dr. Ophelia Dimalanta, also her former students at UST. The plenary speakers are Dr. J. Neil C. Garcia and Dr. Priscelina Patajo-Legasto of UP. Prof. Oscar V. Campomanes of Arizona, Dr. Marjorie M. Evasco of La Salle, and Dr. Jaime An Lim of FEU.

A unique feature of the conference is the demonstration teaching that will be conducted by the junior faculty members of top universities and colleges.

There will also be a retrospective exhibition on the life and times of Garcia sponsored and mounted by the Venturians, the 81-year-old official student publication of the Manila University where Garcia used to be a staff member, as well as dramatic readings by leading stage actors, also organized by the Venturians.

For inquiries e-mail engre1006@yahoo.com and ralphcruzcruz@gmail.com; tel. 8917-5075158 and 0928-9286639.

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Santa María de la Asunción Church in Ilocos Sur, the Rice Terraces of the Cordillera, and San Sebastián Church are a threatened cultural heritage

3 Philippine monuments land in global endangered list

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

WORLD MONUMENTS FUND, A nonprofit organization headquartered in New York dedicated to preserving cultural heritage around the globe, recently announced its 2010 World Monuments Watch List that includes cultural heritage sites at risk in 47 countries. The Watch is World Monument Fund's flagship advocacy program which calls international attention to threatened cultural heritage.

From the 97 sites on the 2010 Watch List, three Philippine sites are included: Santa María de la Asunción, a Spanish colonial church in Ilocos Sur; the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordillera in Ilugao province; and the unicum Cruciform-style San Sebastián

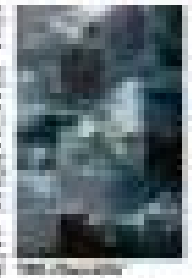
PHILIPPINES E3

Gilda Cordero-Fernando

Naif but not naive

Orfina's 'Highlights at Art Verite'

Cabangis' art refracts nature's complexity



The artist jester on wardrobe

Uychaco's lucky art

Antique Coverlet Rally focus on urban planning

3 Philippine monuments land in global . . .

Galbus Trade conference opens today

His newest show, 'Chiaroscuro,' refers to the play of darkness and light

VELASCO with Ambassador Henrietta "Tita" de Villa

Joey Velasco's light and shadow

By Doctor B. Murillo
Lifestyle Reporter

JOEY VELASCO SHOULD NOT BE painting. He should not have written a book, sculpted a seven-foot-tall bronze sculpture of Fr. Patrick Peyton, and given inspirational talks to just about anybody willing to listen.

But he has continued to do so despite his medical condition. He is able to do those things and so much more—such as enjoy the love and fellowship of family and friends—because he has not given up.

Velasco was fighting a large mass in his kidney when he prayed and asked God that he be thrown a rope, even if it was lined with broken glasses. He was extended a parachute and, pulling himself up, Velasco was able to overcome the physical pain and emerge truly a new man, an artist with purpose.

"Remembering that death can come at any moment is the most important realization I've ever had to help trigger God's gifts," Velasco says. "Because all external appreciations, gifts, all fear of embarrassment or failure—all those things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important. There is no reason anymore not to follow your heart."

Velasco continues to listen to that inner voice that guides him along the path of inspiration, and it could not be more evident in his new exhibit, "Chiaroscuro," ongoing at the lower level of Galeria 3 in Makati. (Contact [illegible], tel. 8584128, 8586123.)

Twelve new collections reflect the artist's perception on life and death. As with his previous works, Velasco continues to defy the conventional views of Jesus Christ.

"Stonehearts" is about cancer-stricken kids. Velasco describes as "heart-but cannot play under the rain like other children do ... A single 'O' tube could vacuum their frail bodies with unimaginable pain. But when someone portrays with them, they don't [illegible] that kindness gives."

"MARY Ang Ilaw ng Ilaw ng Tahanan"

Sharing their pain is a bold Christ who has undergone chemotherapy as the children have, a reassuring presence.

Fully lived

"Ang Ilaw ng Tahanan (A Tribute)" is about a man "Whom time is 1979. Six years his senior. He nonetheless made life to him until he was parted from the toilet down. Being bound to his wheelchair, Sonny was literally essential but he chose to live, just as Velasco did, and even pursued the doctors among who had said that he would not last long.

But despite the anticipated death would not have a profound meaning without showing the value of a fully lived life.

Velasco is blessed with a supportive wife in Queenie and his four children Mario, Chiara, Clarissa, and Mary), the youngest, who is the subject of "My Heart Beats for You."

"My heart is a quiet but sensitive bag," Velasco says. "At times, I catch him observing me from where he is busy tinkering with his toys, his ears listen attentively. Among all my children, he was the one who least experienced infant fathering than me because he was barely a year old when I experienced my heart attack. So I always make sure that he enjoys the correct signal—that I love him.

"From birth until the ninth month of a baby, the most familiar sound he can hear is the heartbeat. It is a source of his security. God talks to us amidst the cacophony of events. He speaks to us in small things we have to be close to."

"In the Valley" shows Christ playing the guitar with two girls singing along, and stage curtains as their background. Velasco explains that music and painting are allied arts in that as colors are mixed on a palette, notes and melodies likewise blend in harmony. If ever the truth requires proof, one could always reference Van Gogh's "Starry Night," which was the inspiration for the Don McLean song "Vincent."

Own story

"The best paintings I make were done while listening to music," the artist says. "It leads me to the flow; somehow it puts me to the zone. But more than all those, music challenges me to put a voice to my painting.

"Never that Jesus accompanies me, the voice has to be bold and fully resounding to that when the artwork is fading it cast give voice to the soft opulent and the wonders of our society. It cannot be muted or suppressed. When a viewer carefully listens, he will hear the song of his own story from the visual scene on a flat surface."

Velasco's works may have different meanings to different people or it may be as simple from one part of eyes to the soul. What cannot be denied, however, is that the paintings have the power to give hope—that the promise of a prosperous and passionate life can be experienced by everyone.

"Life is short," Velasco says. "Live with passion. Live a purposeful life. Leave a legacy. Unless one accepts this truth, one can never really truly live because one will have the tendency to take time for granted as if one's days are without limit.

"Time is a slippery thing and a lot of people go through life half-awake. So don't let the noise of other's opinions drown out your very inner voice and have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. Then somehow already know what you truly want to become."

E-mail dearmurillo@gmail.com

DANTE Higuilla puts finishing touches to "Kalesa," featuring the Old Manila scene. (Right) "Kalesa" is one of the series of artworks by local artist Pan de Manila featured in its paper bag.

Pan de sal bag features painting of Old Manila

PAN DE MANILA HAS ALWAYS PAID TRIBUTE to tradition—the classic bread with a rich heritage baked the conventional way inside an old-style brick oven (pugon).

Pan de Manila's new paper bag makes more allusions to Old Manila.

"Kalesa" by lapot-basket (bano) Higuilla is the featured painting for the new bag. It portrays a realistic scene from the early 1900s, with a horse-drawn carriage passed in front of the Manila Cathedral as the center of the painting.

Pan de Manila commissioned the painting from Higuilla, who is known for his lively and inspiring pastoral scenes and other realist depictions of Filipino values and customs.

Beside the *kalesa* can be found a romantic rendering of a bygone era. A young gentleman, dressed in a *camisa de chino* jeans a young lass garbed in the traditional *baro't saya*, in a courteous manner by tipping his hat. Both exude a wholesomeness that is so vivid, with sincere smiles emanating from their faces.

"Pan de Manila is all about time-honored traditions. Printed on the paper bag are these words: 'We look closely to our personal memories and national history to find our inspirations. Philo-each store serves a piece of history, with each product we chronicle a history of memories. Manila Cathedral has stood as a symbol and testament to our storied past, reminding us of our rich heritage, culture and traditions," said Abel Echanove, marketing manager of Pan de Manila.

Pan Pan de Manila outlets are located at Shaw Avenue, Mandaluyong Diagonal, Mabuhay Highway and Megaworld Mall, Calamba City, SM Sucbang, and Bulacan Highway, Tarlac. For inquiries, please call 6350048 or 8922-8307361, or e-mail panderamanila_ph@yahoo.com.

Kublai Millan invades Manila

By Doctor B. Murillo
Lifestyle Reporter

ANYBODY WHO HAS BEEN IN Davao the past two years would probably know Ruben Millan. (Born Roy Modjadid Bones Millan).

His large-than-life sculptures are all over the city, such as "The Durian" at the Davao International Airport, the 30 sculptures for the Bukidnon Overview Park along the national highway connecting the city to Cagayan de Oro, and 100 sculptures at the People's Park.

Millan, a Fine Arts graduate from University of the Philippines, has also done works for churches, provincial government buildings and is hosting champion Manny Pacquiao's Emerged farm, and his family's five-story hotel, the Bones Suites, where his wall-to-ceiling works have become a must-see for tourists and locals alike.

In such short time, the artist's name has become synonymous with Davao art, and Millan is the enigmatic force behind the city's gradual transformation into a place of bohemian revelation.

Only in his early 30s, Millan continues to churn out art pieces as if never at a loss for inspiration, as if never without time. One can only surmise the artist has found a natural inner place that gives him a surplus of those two requisites for creativity—art.

"Seeing a family taking a sunbath in a farm can have a lasting effect on me, just as the image of an entire community hauling a huge net of fish for the night's dinner can stick in my mind for days on end," Millan says. "If I can share even just an iota of the peace I have found during my long travels through Mindanao, all my hard work will have been worthwhile."

Friends and family could only wonder as Millan has now channeled his talent into the Manila canvas. Keeping up with his bargain sculptures are his colorful 4ft x 4ft oil paintings which are bound for as-yet-unknown destinations.

Understanding what life's most important lessons can be learned from the simple fishermen and farmers of Mindanao, he says his predominant insights came from the simplest inspirations. As perhaps a way of thanking his multicultural muses, Millan has put their images onto the canvas with the hope that people would also find inspiration from them.

Manila gets its chance to see for themselves Millan's works as they are exhibited in four galleries all over the metro in an exhibit called "PrehistoRIZE." Combining the concept of peace and art, which Millan believes is in all of us, the exhibit is part of "Kublai Invades Manila," an exciting road show of colors, passion and culture.

"PrehistoRIZE is the summation of the life in the province Millan has been and continues to be immersed in, captured with every stroke of his paintbrush. The exhibit is one of the artist's journeys for highlighting the beauty of life and is a prelude to the "Visual Arts Mindanao" exhibit in the US and Europe in 2010.

"PrehistoRIZE" runs until Nov 9 at Gallery Big on Scanner Garcia in Makati. Art for Space is also hosting art/09: ai Cubao Expo, until Anos Cánones in Sorsogon. The series marks the first one-man exhibit of the artist.

"Family I" (

KUBLAI perched on his giant eagle sculpture

Edita Estrella-G. Velando

ENTERTAINMENT

Still writing "Memory" is "Cats" the musical, in Manila next year.

Lea is 'Grizabella'

LEA SALONGA WILL PLAY THE PIVOTAL role of Grizabella in Lunchbox Theatrical Productions' staging of "Cats" in Manila.

The UK group (with subsidiaries in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Singapore) is working with the Philippines' Cuscolorm Inc. to bring the musical, one of the longest-running of all time, here next year.

Lea joins an international cast. As Grizabella, who is obsessed by her value, Lea gets to sing the biggest hit to come out of the show, "Memory." In fact, she performs the song twice, in Print One and Two.

Trevor Nunn, original director (The New London Theatre, May 1981), says Grizabella is "an intensely recognizable character, with masterful human resonance." The first Grizabella would have been Dame Judi Dench, but she severed her Achilles tendon during rehearsals and had to be replaced five days before the first preview.

"Cats," named Best Musical in the Olivier and Tony awards, has been presented in some 300 cities worldwide. In Manila, it will run for four weeks starting in July with a gala night and weekend matinees, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Roderick's Mamang well-loved in the biz

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

RODERICK PAULATE SAYS his mother Paz, who died on Nov. 1 at age 88 due to diabetes complications, was one of the "best-loved people" in show business.

That's no empty copywriting by a deeply grieving son.

In a world of pushy stage mothers, Roderick's "Mamang" was a gentle wind between his wings.

She would accompany Roderick, who joined the biz at age 6, to his film shoots. But, he recalled, "She would invariably look for the dullest, quietest little corner on the set, and there she would sit quietly and patiently."

Roderick added: "That's why big stars like Weimarie Pen Jr. and Joseph Estrada were drawn to her and would always talk to her. PPJ even became her kumpare ... he was a principal sponsor to my sister Stella's wedding."

On Friday, last night of the wake (quite a handful of luminaries, including Sharon Cuneta, Lani Mercado, Amy Perez, Dindee Gramjo and Faysal Aghasini paid their respects.

The all-star turnout was as much a tribute to Mamang's "favorite son," the youngest of 10 children (two of them deceased).

"She always made me feel as if she were my biggest fan," Roderick recounted. "I think I was inspired to excel because I instinctively knew that, by doing so, I'd make my mom extremely happy and proud."

Mamang Paz encouraged all her children to hone their gifts. "When I was young," Roderick said, "my siblings and I would put up plays at home and we would [perform for] my parents' guests. My sister Lolita wrote the scripts."

Being the smallest, and most precocious of the bunch, he was always cast as in the lead role.

In one of those home-spun programs, Mamang Paz's friend, director Armando de Guzman was in attendance. Recently discovering Roderick, who was promptly cast in "Kalibigan Sa ang Ina Mike" in 1968. The boy won the Manila Film/Star Best Child Actor award for "Kasalanan Kaya?" that same year.

Throughout Roderick's four-decade career, Mamang remained by his side...seeing as show hosts and critic, manager and mentor.

"She took care of me all my life," he said. "But in her twilight years, our roles were reversed. She became my baby."

When Sir Salbes Rodolfo passed away at age 67 in 1998, Roderick took it upon himself to fill the void and "spoil my mom."

"My siblings and I didn't want our mom to ever get depressed, so we would always take her out, to eat and shop. Of [course] her favorite perfume, Calyx by Bergdorf[en]," he said.

Until the last few months, mom and son would still step out for their customary lunch and dinner dates.

Sadly, she didn't get to watch Roderick's most recent movie, Emir Tapanes's "Tiwil Sa Si Lolo," the country's official entry in the Oscar Awards' Best Foreign Language Film category.

"But she knew it was chosen for the Oscars. I remember she was smiling when I told her the news, and she was very happy for me," Roderick said.

Mamang Paz was buried on Saturday in Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina. She would [be] right next to her husband's.

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Lolo Aga, Lola Janice

KIDDY Matisch and Patricia Pesti-Matisch after their civil wedding this

AGA MUHLACH AND JANICE de Belen's love child, Spanky Matisch, will soon be a dad. He married his longtime girlfriend Patricia Pesti in civil rites last Oct. 24.

What was his parents' initial reaction? "Shocked ang sila," says Ipi "Gimuro ko daw silang lolo at lola sa [unang] apo."

I suddenly feel [a]-old. Ipi said in [re]ply to my kids' birthday parties.

What advice did his parents give him? "That I should change my ways," Ipi quips. "And that I should learn from my mistakes and, put God in the center of our marriage so it will work ... and that Patty and I should strive to be good parents."

Any parents they have in mind for the baby? "Anjelica Miguel for a boy...my second name and Patty's [sister's] name is Miguel. Adriana Dominique for a girl, from Patty's second name Dominique."

Will they allow their baby to join show biz? "He/she has to finish school first."

What are the adjustments they are going through as newlyweds? "We don't go out and I can't drink that much anymore. We often stay home, order pizza and munch DVDs. We let our maid go, so we will have to manage by ourselves. I cook, Patty cooks so the dishes. I do the laundry, she cleans the house. I clean, up our dog, Spatula. Fun ... happy newlyweds."

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Tough acts to follow

Being the son of Bong Revilla and grandson of Ramon Revilla are John Revilla's [in]credentials. But he's coming

'Kristo' kicks off 'I-Witness' month

GMA TV'S 'I-WITNESS' MARKS ITS 10TH anniversary this month with two all-new, special documentaries.

Asking tonight is Jay Taruc's "Kristo," a graphic feature about the Arnaldos, the dramatic presentation of the Passion of the Christ in Cutud, Pampanga.

Jay discovers that the person playing "Kristo" is quitting his cash-cow role and reinforces many valued objections against his successor, a self-confessed gambler and drunkard.

'Gone But Not Forgotten'

Q Channel 11's movie block Premiere Nights features the miniseries, "Maalaala Mongerlen's Gone But Not Forgotten," starting tonight at 8:30 p.m.

Starring Smoke Shields, the suspense-thriller movie for TV begins with the uncovering of a series of brutal murders of women in Hunter's Point, a small town in New York.

The detectives find two things in common between the murder scenes—a black rose and a note saying, "Gone, but not forgotten."

The series continues on Nov. 11, 17 and 18.

H'wood deal for RP winner

VENICE-WINNING FILIPINO FILM "Engkwentro" has signed up a distribution deal with Hollywood firm Shore-line Entertainment. "This week, Shore-line will present 'Engkwentro' at the American Film Market," said Dept. Director Dadoo, director.

"It's mini sports ... it will be selling out movie outside of the Philippines," Dadoo said. He described Shoreline as a top film company. "It [also] brought this year's fan-dance winner, 'La Pinita.'"

Bayanni San Diego Jr.

CHEER FACTOR

Lolo Aga . . .

From page F1

into his own. "I hope to achieve what they both have achieved," he says. "But they are tough actors fellow. I'd like to be known on my own cinema."

Jolo top-bills "Sigang Aginar" (8:45 p.m., Saturdays on ABS-CBN 2), originally portrayed by his late father.

On the flexibles really have an opinion when it comes to women? "Friendly tang hanu sa girls," Jolo says. "Di naman hanu bahaso. Di co ay hat co ang damang ang anal ko." **I'll break the flexible tradition** I in that word. As laughs, "Sana ng co Lolo, nakaka-over 4 years old. He stays with me, but I know can visit or take him to his place any time."

How are things between him and Cesar's mom, Rosanna Roces, who had quite a mouthful about the flexible? "Okay naman kami. Ang anak na ito kami ni Grace na ang nagkol at anak namin. Kaming dalawa ay lang ang may anak, para di magulo. What about Lani Mae? "Split na talaga kami."

Jolo requested me not to reveal the reason for their breakup. However, I wrote an item about Lani in a previous column which might give a clue.

In his new leading lady, Melissa Ricks, sure in line to scrape his heart? "Maybe," he says with a smirk. "Maaring siya ang isa sa aking nawala (laughs)."

Surely, he's got that irresistible flexible charm, this Jolo good fellow!

Giveaway trivia

My son, K Mendoza has a great appreciation for Rabaong Lizzie's sidekick in "Tanna." He told me that Marian Rivera's folding chair has a Darna design with matching wings at the back. He asked but where she bought the autographed chair? Marian told him that it's a gift from Kingdong Darna. Isn't that confirmation enough that Dong and Marian are flying high on the wings of love?

Just chilling!

Aricho Rosales and Kristine Hermosa were spotted with Angel Aquino and some friends at Reserve bar. Was it just a spur of the moment chill-out night after their taping of "Dahil May Isang Ikaw," or are the sit-komic finding their way back to love? Apres lost, the road to our hearts that takes us apart is the sweetest kind that leads us back.

E-mail: [redacted]
[redacted]@yahoo.com

CINEMA ACCESS: 395-5555

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GALLERIA

1 JENNIFER'S BODY
2 ALL ABOUT STEVE
3 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
4 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN
5 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
6 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
7 [illegible]
8 I LOVE DREAMGUYZ
9 ASTROBOY
10 PATIENT X

ERMITA

1 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN
2 I LOVE DREAMGUYZ
3 ALL ABOUT STEVE
4 ASTROBOY
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6 PATIENT X
7 500 DAYS OF SUMMER

METRO EAST

1 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
2 ALL ABOUT STEVE
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NOVALICHES

1 ALL ABOUT STEVE
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4 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT

PIONEER

1 ALL ABOUT STEVE
2 ASTROBOY
3 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN
4 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT

MOVIEWORLD

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Promo Duration: Nov. 13 to Dec. 13, 2009
Number of raffle entries per mobile number: 5
Raffle Draw Date: December 14, 2009
Venue: [illegible]

STA. ROSA

1 PATIENT X
2 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
3 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN
4 JENNIFER'S BODY

LIPA

1 HALLOWEEN 2
2 PATIENT X
3 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
4 BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT

BASMARINAS

1 PATIENT X
2 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
3 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN
4 500 DAYS OF SUMMER

IMUS

1 PATIENT X
2 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
3 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN
4 ALL ABOUT STEVE

STARMILLS

1 PATIENT X
2 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
3 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
4 RED CLIFF
5 SORORITY ROW
6 THE FINAL DESTINATION

ANGELES

1 PATIENT X
2 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
3 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
4 THE GABBER

TACLOBAN

1 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
2 PATIENT X
3 THE ECHO

BACOLOD

1 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
2 PATIENT X
3 THE ECHO
4 FAME
5 HALLOWEEN 2
6 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE

ILOILO

1 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
2 PATIENT X
3 THE ECHO
4 THE HURT LOCKER
5 HALLOWEEN 2
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3 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN
4 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
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6 ALL ABOUT STEVE
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15 HALLOWEEN 2
16 RED CLIFF

MALL OF ASIA

1 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN
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4 JENNIFER'S BODY
5 ASTROBOY
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8 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
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MEGAMALL

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4 ALL ABOUT STEVE
5 JENNIFER'S BODY
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7 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
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Reality series on Jacksons

MEANWHILE, Jet, the paparazzi, seeks support from MJ's mom. AP

NEW YORK—A REALITY SHOW miniseries about the Jackson family will premiere Dec. 13 on A&E, the cable television network says. Back-to-back hour episodes will air that night.

"The Jacksons: A Family Dynasty" focuses on brothers Jackie, Jermaine, Tito and Marlon as they prepare to reunite for a concert tour. It also chronicles their lives as they cope with Michael's drug-induced death in 2009.

There will be six episodes, the network said.

"This deeply intimate portrait will provide viewers with a rare and honest look inside a musical dynasty," said A&E and Bio Channel vice president Robert Zhanetos. AP

Why women still want this gay Idol

Cora Jacobs

LOS ANGELES—"THE WORLD OF ROCK has a bright new star."

Queen guitarist Brian May wrote those words in his blog after hearing Adam Lambert's "Time for Miracles," the theme song from director Roland Emmerich's disaster film epic "2012." When we asked Adam to comment on Brian's effusive praise, the "Idol" runner-up couldn't hide his thrill. "It's such an honor," Adam said. "Brian May is part of one of the best bands out there ever...to have him give his stamp of approval means a lot to me."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Here's part two of our interview excerpts with Adam, who grew up in San Diego, home to a large Filipino community. That could only mean rock's new star has Pinoy friends so yes, he scores our final crossy note and three.

Was there positive reaction from fans when you admitted being gay?

I was a little nervous coming out, but I had to do it because there was so much speculation. I didn't want to go through the rest of my career with people constantly trying to figure out what I'm about and getting into my personal life, so I just figured 'If I crack it wide open. Now we can just get past it and make some music.'

Would you consider your trademark look for a movie role?

As long as the role is good, it doesn't matter if I have to take off my eyebrows and nail polish.

What are the things you're still struggling with?

Becoming level-headed and grounded is a slight struggle but I'm doing good. Starting with the lack of anonymity is a new adjustment. But it's worth it. I'm getting all I ever wanted so if I can't go to the grocery store without being recognized, it's a small price to pay.

ADAM: "I guess they feel safe with me."

Have your friends and family already said, "Gaga down," or something?

No, they're actually been kind of affirming that I am staying that way—it helps to have "Good for you for staying true to yourself, Adam." I see like, "Pumila guys. If I ever start going up into the clouds too much, pull me down. Please."

Can you look back on your first "Idol" audition?

That probably was the most nervous I was throughout the entire process. My heart was beating so fast. I was just trying to stay cool...Paula was really sweet and I kind of knew what to expect, but the minute Simon and Randy said they had their doubts, I thought, "Okay, this is your moment. Right or left?" I opened my mouth and said, "Come on, give me a chance."

Have you seen "This is It"? How influential was Michael Jackson to you as an artist?

That movie is frustrating. I was satisfied to see how he soundboard to the creative process...doing choreography and musical arrangements...If something was not right, he'd say, "No, no, no, no," because he just didn't feel it.

Despite your admission in that Rolling Stone article, women are still attracted to you.

Maybe it feels safe for them. Maybe they feel like, "Okay, well, I can fantasize about this guy but I don't have to worry about my bra [size] being read about it." Maybe there's a safety there because I'm not available for that sort.

Who were your musical idols when you were younger?

Definitely, Freddie Mercury...I discovered the music of the '70s a little late through...I grew up with Michael Jackson, Madonna, the big pop stars of the '80s and '90s. Later, in my 20s, I got into the whole Summer of Love era, that whole movement in San Francisco. I got into Janis Joplin and the Doors, and then Led Zeppelin and Queen. I loved T. Rex and Bowie, Gary Glitter and Sparks.

(Email the columnist at cjacobs_1105@yahoo.com and read his blog "The Manila Report" at http://blogmanilareport.com/nepalesreport)

Education by special delivery / G3
Lessons from Michael Jackson / G4

LEARNING
Editor Chelo Banal Formoso

What I've Learned

Smarter than a fifth grader, but are you wiser than an ant?

Tony Oposa Jr.
Environmentalist lawyer

WHAT IS THE environment? Is it the birds and the bees and the flowers and the trees? Yes, I have learned that it is all these and more.

The difficulty with the word "environment" is that it is a language not our own. To say that it is about our surroundings is to minimize its comprehension. Perhaps that is why the environment is given marginal priority by running simply down our shrinking-our-deepest consciousness.

The environment is about life, and the sources of life—land, air and water (LAW). Land is the carpet of living matter that enables us to grow our food. Air is that delicate mixture of gases that enables us to breathe. Water makes up 70 percent of the human body.

Rule of threes

There is what is called the rule of threes. Generally, without air for three minutes, we die; without water for three days, we die; and without food for 30 days, we die.

The trees and the forests are the lungs, the land and the soil are the skin and the flesh, and the seas and the rivers are the blood and bloodstream of life.

When we understand the environment as life and the source of life, it becomes a much greater importance. The environmental crisis that is unraveling today is a product of wrong mindsets, of treating the environment like it is only about the birds and the bees.

Albert Einstein said we could not solve a problem with the same mindset that created the problem in the first place. It refers to change mindsets. Change words, you change meanings; change meanings, you change implications; change implications, you change mindsets.

On ants and humans

Which animal is wiser and more civil? The ant or the human?

Before answering that question, we must first ask another question: What is the purpose of temperament? The answer: To serve humans and things from one point to another.

Let us now compare ants and humans as they move from one point to another:

1. Despite their number, ants do not have traffic jams. The reason is simple: They travel in a single file.

In contrast, human beings, who claim to be the wisest animals on Earth, insist on individual and chaotic movements. They want to travel when and how they want, congesting the limited space they are for travel. As one wit puts it, "Our insistence on individual mobility has resulted in serious collective immobility."

Take for example my so-called South Luzon Expressway or South Superhighway it is neither expressway nor a highway; neither is it a slightly moving parking lot. That is, when there are no accidents or stalled vehicles.

2. Ants do not take up more space than necessary for their movement.

In contrast, a human being alone in a car occupies 20-12 sq m; that is, when the car is not moving.

3. Ants do not use a lot of materials to move from one point to another.

In contrast, cars (as in most metal and fossil fuels. Metals, as we know, come from the earth—removed we are mined to produce a small amount of metal. To produce an amount of energy and water must be used, and allowed, to produce metals.

The oil that runs our cars is one fossil fuels (that took at least 100 million years to form. The fossil fuels are taken from the depths of the Earth in a matter of hours, and the oil taken from there is burned in a matter of seconds.

4. Ants do not pulverize the air that they breathe.

Humans, on the other hand, are burning fossil fuels and emitting toxic and poisonous gases into the very air that everyone breathes in that smart?

In addition, human activities produce carbon dioxide, a gas that traps heat and in turn a major cause of the heating of the Earth's atmosphere that has a paralyzing and catastrophic impact on human life.

Ants manage humans and despite their dislikes of high intelligence and great wisdom, they are the only animals that they do not destroy their habitat, poison the waters they drink, and kill the soil that is the base of all their food.

5. Ants do not cross their paths with enemies.

In contrast, human beings pave the road they use for travel. Thus, concrete absorbs heat, the roads become very hot, and cities and places of dwelling become islands of heat. Second, because concrete does not absorb water, water runs off and is wasted, instead of replenishing the groundwater that human beings extract for their needs. Third, because water is not absorbed by the soil and the vegetation, flooding occurs, resulting in damage to human beings. Is that smart?

6. When civilized ants bump into each other, they bow in such salute.

In contrast, vehicular collisions often lead to heated arguments, sometimes even fistfights or, worse, shootings. Animals are more road rage. Humans do.

I have learned that ants are indeed wiser and more civil than human beings.

Are we happy with that?

If human beings wish to prove this proposition wrong, it is rather time to think the way we travel to get from one point to another. The solution is a "revolution," i.e., a turn-around in the way we think and act.

We have to shift our mindsets from individualized and polluter transportation systems to collective and non-polluting transportation.

For example, not all transportation must be by motor vehicles. We can walk or bike. The lack of physical activity of modern human beings is one of the major causes of diseases like obesity, stroke, heart ailment and diabetes.

What does it take to change?

It does not take the genius of a rocket scientist or a theoretical physicist. All it takes is pure and simple common sense, the sense to understand that we are collectively more intelligent than ants, as we like to think.

Among others, the following need to be done:

1. Reform the road system, with a preference for non-motorized locomotion systems. Ramon Magsaysay said, "Those who have less in life must have more in law." Let us apply that principle to the road. "Those who have less in wheels must have

ANTONIO OPOSA JR.

alma matter

Where Tony Oposa Jr. went to school

Elementary—Sacred Heart School
High school—Sacred Heart School and Colegio del Sto. Niño
Pre-law—De La Salle University Manila
Law—University of the Philippines College of Law
Master of Laws—Harvard Law School, USA
Specializations on energy and environment—University of Oslo, Norway

CLASS ACT

WALKING FOR SAFETY
More than 400 Grade 5 students from Pasay, Parañaque and Quezon City, along with Federal Express (FedEx) and Safe Kids Philippines (SKP) volunteers and partners, marked the International Walk to School Day (IWTSD) in Bonifacio. The annual event aims to highlight the importance of pedestrian safety. SKP, a non-government organization committed to preventing unintentional injury to children, said several projects to improve road safety for children had been completed. They include a 1.8-kilometer sidewalk along Bonifacio Elementary School Unit II, covering of more open manholes, painting of crosswalks, and installation of road signs. FedEx funded the improvements. Visit www.safekidsphilippines.org.

Lasallians learn the 3 Rs

LA SALLE GREEN HILLS (LSGH) recommitted itself to the environment on its 50th year by pushing its Reduce, Re-use, Recycle by Tomorrow (R3RT) campaign among members of the Lasallian community.

R3RT teaches Lasallians practical ways to undertake the 3 Rs.

It emphasizes the importance of reducing garbage by avoiding unnecessary consumption, reusing garbage like old plastic bags and recycling garbage such as old plastic bottles and converting them into useful objects like planters, pencil holders, etc.

R3RT aims to increase awareness among the LSGH students, faculty and the rest of the community of the threats and effects of global warming, as well as teach grade and high school students how to manage their environment to avoid creating further damage.

Brother Felipe Belleza Jr., FSC, LSGH president, said R3RT was the school's way of teaching young people their environmental responsibilities.

He said a group of LSGH students had launched a fan page on Facebook to extend knowledge and practices to more people, including non-Lasallians.

Belleza said LSGH had been promoting the "Green Life" even before environmentalism became "in."

This year, to mark Green Week in Gold, Belleza announced the school's support for the One Million Trees and Beyond (OMTB) project of the Lasallian Institute for the Environment.

The OMTB project aims to plant one million seedlings by 2011 when De la Salle Philippines marks its centenary.

La Salle students learn practical ways to re-use, recycle and reduce.

Playgrounds for the MIND

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Member Schools

Ateneo MEA Santa's Workshop Bazaar at the Gateway Mall

THE ATENEO MANAGEMENT ENGINEering Association presents Pasking MEA: Santa's Workshop Bazaar. This is a unique bazaar that brings Christmas cheer and the spirit of gift-giving together, with a huge array of wonderful products at prices one simply cannot ignore. Santa's Workshop, after all, has been very busy throughout the year, thus bazaar will definitely be more than just a showcase of products, as it promises to present to both the Christmas and non-Christmas shopper not only products that are traditionally found in the typical Christmas bazaar, but also the most innovative and well-crafted products that are not widely available.

Santa's Workshop is intended as a gathering point for both the established and budding entrepreneurs, as they present their ingenuity through the products they have in store. From body products to unique Christmas handicrafts and gift ideas, this bazaar is sure to entertain, interest, and satiate the craving of every Christmas shopper, while at the same time breaking the mold of the typical Christmas bazaar. This November, Santa's Workshop will be held in the conveniently-located Trade Hall of Gateway Mall. Featuring well over fifty unique Christmas shopping stalls as well as easy access from several malls within the Araneta Center, Santa's Workshop will deliver on its promise of creating a place of opportunity where innovative sellers could make a great sale and gain significant consumer exposure, and where interested buyers could discover innovative new products and strike a great bargain.

The bazaar will be held on Nov. 20-29, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Gateway Trade Hall, 3rd level, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao.

Interested concessionaires may contact Glenne (0917 8933231) or Lenny (0915-5648000) or e-mail pasking@ateneo.edu.com for more details. Special discounts will be given to the first 20 concessionaires! Booth sizes are for two days, inclusive of a 2x2m standard-size hall booth, 2 chairs, and a table. You may also visit: pasking.ateneo.edu/bazaar for more information.

CEU receives Institutional Accreditation Status

CEU PRESIDENT, DR. ADA CHRISTINA D. ONGOCMA, ANNOUNCED THE university's received accreditation status from Accreditation Status for the period April 2009 to April 2012 from the Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP) as recommended by the Philippine Accrediting Association of Colleges and Universities Commission of Accreditation (Pacucoa). The award is based on the university's compliance to the following criteria: number of accredited programs in Levels III and IV, percent of programs accredited, percent of student population enrolled in accredited programs, licensure examination performance of graduates and presence of a well-developed quality assurance system. (For more CEU info, log on to www.ceu.edu.ph)

15th Deaf Festival at the DLS-CSB

DE LA SALLE – COLLEGE OF SAINT BENILDE (DLS-CSB) SCHOOL OF DEAF Education and Applied Studies (SODEAS) will celebrate the 15th Deaf Festival on Nov. 16-21. The only deaf band, planned and organized deaf festival in the country, this year's theme "Deaf of 21 Years" showcases the talents, skills and aspirations of the Filipino deaf. A holy mass will open the celebration on Nov. 16, 10 a.m., Monday at the Augusto Posadas Theater after which the ribbon cutting for an exhibit will be made. Seminars, sports games, film showings and cultural shows will be part of the week-long celebration.

De La Salle University-Dasmariñas alumna places 5th in board exam for guidance counselors

LECUSBONG-DLSU-AMS

PROVING FURTHER THE EXCELLENCE OF DE La Salle University–Dasmariñas students and the high quality of its instructors, BSEd in Guidance and Counseling alumna Debbie Marie Lizadine-Dador emerged 5th place in the guidance counselors board examination held recently. The university garnered a passing rate of 75 percent which is higher than the national passing rate of 73.33 percent.

National Book Week celebrates 75th year

THE PHILIPPINE LIBRARIANS' ASSOCIATION INC (PLAI), THE NATIONAL Library and the 2009 National Book Week committee chaired by Dr. Rosa J. Chanco will be spearheading the annual celebration of National Book Week from Nov. 23-30. The annual celebration of NBW is in pursuance of Presidential Proclamation No. 186, signed in 1936, which emphasizes reading as one of most effective methods of enlightening people. This year the nation observes the 75th anniversary of National Book Week. The theme of this year's celebration is "Kasiya-siyang Magbasa sa Kapaligirang Ka-Ganda". The week-long kick-off with BBW Book Character Parade, forty years and opening ceremonies at the National Library on Nov. 24 with ID Ambassadors to the Philippines from the Embassies of Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Brunei. There will similar seminars and forums during the week-long celebration. To highlight the affair PLAI will host its Annual General Assembly and Awarding Ceremonies on Nov. 27 from 1:30-5 p.m. at "The Heritage Hotel, Manila, Extra, Pasay City. Hall of Fame Awardees are Salvacion Arboleda of UP Library and Fe Angela Verzosa of De La Salle University. The NBM 75th Special Achievement Award will be given to Dominia L. Gonzales. For more information, call Ambet PLAI office at 525-9481.

University of the East College of Law sets lecture on Supreme Court's latest decisions

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST COLLEGE OF LAW (UE CLAW), TO welcome its students to the second semester, school year 2009-2010, will conduct a lecture-cum-survey of the Supreme Court's latest decided cases in Civil Law, Criminal Law and Labor Law, scheduled at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at the UE Pre-Bar Review Room, 3rd floor, Bahaguio Bldg., 2219 C.M. Recto Ave., Sampaloc, Manila. The lecture, aimed at complementing the students' studies and as preparation for the Bar Examinations, will feature leading Bar examination reviewers and academician-lawyers Abelardo Diamonton and Salvador Poquiz as lecturers. All UE law students are invited to attend this meaningful lecture, according to UE CLaw dean Amado Valdez. Poquiz will lecture on Labor Law at 5 p.m., while Diamonton's talk on Civil Law and Criminal Law will follow at 6 p.m. For details, please contact Nadine or Alden in the UE CLaw Dean's Office, tel. nos. 735-1457 loc. 334, or e-mail: law@ue.edu.ph.

LPU sets exam for scholarship

QUALIFYING EXAMS FOR THE JOSE P. LAUREL – GERVACIO H. LAUREL Presidential Scholarship at Lyceum of the Philippines University are scheduled for Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28 and Dec. 5 and 12. The scholarship is open to all top 15 per cent high school students seeking financial assistance for their degree programs. Aspiring applicants must belong to the top 15 percent of their graduating class of at least 30 students. Courses covered by the scholarship are Hotel and Restaurant Management, Tourism, Accountancy, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Customs Administration, Electronics Engineering, Journalism, Mass Communication, Legal Studies, International Relations and Nursing. Applicants should submit any form of certification from their high school principal that they belong to the top ten percent of the graduating class and are of good moral character. The certificate should indicate the total number of graduating students and the applicant's class rank based on the most recent grading period. Free tuition and miscellaneous fees, a renewable monthly stipend, book allowance, transportation and uniform allowance per school year comprise the scholarship benefits. For more details, call 527-1758 or 404-2015 and ask for Jack Nicholson Quimpo.

Philex employee hailed as board topnotcher

PHILEX MINING CORPORATION EMPLOYEE AND UNIVERSITY OF the Philippines Diliman alumna Emmanuella Villaflor recently topped the Geologists Licensure Examination board exams. In 2008, she graduated cum laude from the University of the Philippines–Diliman with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Geology. Before reaching for Philex, she worked as a student assistant in the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. Gene Solomon Foundation Inc. UP-BGS. Currently Villaflor is assigned in Negros by Philex and has been with the mining company for more than half a year already. Her current pursuits are geared towards further tapping her education while trying to contribute to the projects assigned to her. In return, Philex continues to develop and train young minds, such as Villaflor, who are seen to have huge potentials to be part of a bigger and brighter future in the mining industry.

TAKING SEX OUT OF SEX EDUCATION:
A novel approach to child sexual abuse prevention

CHILD PROTECTION UNIT (CPU) PHILIPpines in cooperation with Ilo Kasimo, University Center for Continuing Education is presenting a three-hour symposium entitled "Taking Sex Out of Sex Education: a novel approach to child sexual abuse prevention." The symposium will be on Nov. 13, from 2 to 5 p.m. at IEE Auditorium, Mintapin, Manila.

CPU is bringing in from the University of Southern Maine, USA, Dr. Constance Dorn, a social worker who has specialized in child welfare and child sexual abuse, to introduce her technique.

The modules present a curriculum aimed at helping parents/caregivers and educators/professionals teach children how to recognize unhealthy/unsafe/abusive relationships, and ultimately how to recognize signs of manipulation that are present in narcissistic relationships and more especially in sexual abuse relationships.

On the surface, the module is teaching common signs of all controlling relationships, but underneath, there is a session on detecting sexual abuse. The module reinforces that all controlling relationships have similar components.

Parents, teachers, psychologists, school administrators, social workers and other professionals working with children will greatly benefit from this symposium.

The registration fee is P300. Payments can be deposited in BPI savings account #1281-0272-83 Ilonito branch or through check addressed to Child Protection Unit Network Org Inc. For inquiries, call (02)434-2004 or e-mail info@cpunet.org.ph.

THE CHAMPIONS! COURTESY CALL

University of Perpetual Help Gus Pineli Alvar Perpetual proudly presents its winning trophy to Archony Tenorio. UPH chair of the presidential management staff, after regaining the championship crown in the Samsung NCAA Chess leading Competition held recently at the Arena in San Juan City. This is the ARU's 4th NCAA title in five years of joining the competition. Early this year, the team also won the championship title in the 4th National Chess leading Championship defeating 19 schools all over the country.

TIP Business Education dean lauds college quizzers

DR. EVELYN E. CELIS, DBAA, COLLEGE OF BUSINESS EDUCATION OF the Technological Institute of the Philippines recently cited the TIP CBE quizzers for winning the top 3 places in different competitions sponsored by the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Phicpa) and the Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants (JPIA), participated in by student quizzers from around 36 schools of Business Education in Metro Manila. First placers were Mark Anthony C. Plaforos in Practical Accounting 1 of the NCR Leg, sponsored by the NCR JPIA at PSBA, Quezon City and Grace M. Albuman in Theory of Accounts of the PSBA President's Cup sponsored by the JPIA at PSBA, Quezon City. Second placers were Grace M. Albuman in Theory of Accounts of the NCR Cup sponsored by the NCR JPIA at PSBA, Quezon City and Angelo Perez, Marinela L. Cabungcal and Chuck Moises S. Francisco of the Dr. Alenton Cup 2009 sponsored by the JPIA at the Don Fileroon E. Aguilar Memorial College of Las Piñas (DFAEMCLP). Third placers were Marivel S. Cabungcal in Auditing Problems of the PSBA President's Cup sponsored by the JPIA PSBA, Quezon City; Chuck Moises S. Francisco in Tax Who 2009 sponsored by Phcpa, Pizza Bldg. Shaw Blvd. Mandaluyong City and Jay Jew Eviscillo and Francisco Galeon Jr. in Toto Tsangpo Cup sponsored by JPIA at the Bacolod Polytechnic College. The TIP student quizzers were coached by Profair G. Labasano, faculty member of the Accountancy Department of TIP Manila.

MNHS batch '91 alumni homecoming

CALLING ALL GRADUATES OF MALABON NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL batch '91, there will be an alumni homecoming on Nov. 28, 5 p.m. at the Covered Court Dike by Sail St. Dalandanan subdivision Bulong Cutad Malabon City. For more information please call Nimrod Dela Cruz 09161888258 and Ronald De Guzman 3017 6011/6012.

Yes, they deliver

REAP allows working students, dropouts, etc. to study anywhere, anytime

By Perla Aragon-Choudhury
Contributor

LET'S CALL HER Marta, this waitress in Ormoc City who took advantage of a lull in the week to do her module in math.

Concentrated on her task, she was unaware that her diligence was making an impression on a customer, an engineer who offered to help her with her lesson.

From Leyte to Visayas and Mindanao, many learners like Marta have availed of the modular approach for the possibility of studying any time and anywhere, be it the workplace or the farm.

It was in 1993 that Fe Angeles-Jose from Isla Alaterre, Oil Sandbox district of the Angeleses Sun, graded Open School, opened the Home Study Program (HSP) for paying students.

Allowing more effective a way to deliver high education, he proposed to the whole Angeleses community the idea of offering it to the entire country.

As a result, Angeleses launched the Inner Study Program for the Poor in January 1999, in partnership with the government. It was later renamed BEAP, short for Basic Education Agenda for the Poor.

Alarcon's innovation has turned curricular grades and traditional teacher lessons plans into "student lesson plans and road maps for learning."

NEW LEARNERS of various ages listen to a facilitator explain the requirements of Angeleses's modular study program.

Individualized instruction

The program calls books "modules" or, more formally, Individualized Learning Packages. Teachers are "facilitators" and students are "learners." Grade levels are referred to as "years of schooling" (or more informally, Yrs). The entire campus behind Santos Domingo Church is its classroom.

Today, BEAP has 978 learners and 19 learning sites, reports Grace Donadilla, team principal for the ISH.

"And now we have this," she says, referring to a spacious room in Angeleses.

Facilitators have their tables on one side and are available to learners who for their modules in a glass-walled area with chairs and book shelves that face the other wall. The setup helps, especially when they take their monitory turns.

"Here is where a 56-year-old papa does her modules, as she wants for her change to come out of it. Theresa's," Donadilla says with obvious pride.

BEAP has reached more than the out-of-school youth for whom it was initially envisioned by Alarcon.

As early as 2000 it has been helping, among others, jail inmates in Palawan, Antique, Iloilo and the cities of Bacolod and Davao, as well as the wards of nuns and nurses in, among others, Pangarap, Calaocan, Sonzi, Pandacaqui, Villa Hans, Quezon City and Batalan, Batangas.

"I've walked seven mountains and five rivers just to reach a site," smiles Donadilla, recalling the toilsome and adventurous times when the Angeleses staff—not only facilitators like her—had met with community leaders and urged learners to start off BEAP.

Donadilla says they just met with and modified different types of institutions and individuals.

"In Dolores, Quezon, one volunteer coordinator, Mely Tolentino, tied Fr. Alarcon in a parish of the Dominicans," she recalls. "He was also from the interior of a Japanese who had bought land in Ilog Davis and who now supports it. They have a graduate of BEAP elementary Education who has volunteered to tutor her former classmates."

Learning as they work

And when he was in Palawan, Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo built a home for learners who would have walked two to three hours just to get to school. Today the home lists basic discipline so they work on their modules, carry out assigned chores, grow organic vegetables for their food, eat and pray together.

"Twenty-two mayors were right in a sign of support [for BEAP] behind Pabillo," Donadilla says.

BEAP is meant to be used for out-of-school learners who are in situations that prevent them from attending school every day (for example, fish), according to Fr. Alarcon, are of low school to poverty.

With volunteers from Angeleses and from the community itself, learners can get their degree they have always aspired for.

"To qualify for BEAP, s/he must have a volunteer coordinator, volunteer tutors and at least 20 people interested in completing their basic education (elementary to high school).

With a placement test, Angeleses sets the initial grade level of a learner, who then/she are a learner informs official modules in the college.

Donadilla and her co-facilitators then set aside the computers to make the learning modules, have them printed, and send them to the volunteer coordinator by bus, ship or plane.

Each learner gets a set of the printed modules in all subjects. He/she and/or role of assigned by the volunteer coordinator to tutor of self-paced learning, one-on-one interactions with individual tutors in the learning site, when to take achievement tests; and the conduct of oral examinations and retests.

"Yes, we allow retakes, depending on the request," says Donadilla.

As volunteers determine movement to the next level per subject area. A learner who has mastered the basic competencies for basic education, as prescribed by the Department of Education, gets an Angeleses Diploma.

Symposium on child sexual abuse prevention

CHILD PROTECTION UNIT (CPU) Philippines, with the Eastern University Center for Continuing Education, is presenting a symposium on sex education at 2-5 p.m. on Nov. 13 at the CPU headquarters on Mercury Street, Manila.

The three-hour symposium is entitled "Taking Sex out of Sex Education: A Parent Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Prevention."

CPU is bringing in from the University of Southern Maine, USA, Dr. Constance Dalla, a social worker who has specialized in child services and child sexual abuse, to introduce her modules for teaching children how to recognize unhealthy touch, using relationships, especially sexual abuse.

This symposium is for parents, teachers, psychologists, school administrators, social workers and other professionals working with children. Fee is P500, which may be deposited to BPI Savings Account 3081-0213-83 in Iloilo branch or paid by check made out to Child Protection Unit Network Bldg. Inc.

Call 4260904 or e-mail cdalla@usm.maine.edu.

Kids, speak up and win a prize

THROUGH ITS SMARTER Philippines Contest, Ovaltine wants Filipino kids 6-14 years old to speak up and be rewarded for voicing their thoughts.

To enter the contest, a child must be videotaped answering the question "If you were the President of the Philippines, what is the first thing that you would do?"

The best video can win an educational showcase worth P100,000.

Videos should be uploaded to www.smarterphilippines.com. They may also be sent via MMS to 0917.8220961. Videos on a compact disc may also be sent to Tbill Philippines, 9th floor Manjar Tower, 112 18th Street corner 6th Avenue, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Deadline for submission of video entries is Mar. 31.

The winner can choose from three options for his/her prize:

1) an educational top package for two in Thailand, 2) a computer package that includes a laptop, printer and other gadgets, or 3) a package consisting of a flat screen television, DVD player, educational videos and books.

The grand prize winner will also be the new Ovaltine ambassador, a representative who "exudes the values every child can be—classy, bright, with the smarts to become a future leader."

Video entries should not exceed 1 minute and 15MB. Ten finalists will be chosen based on the following criteria: meaning and relevance of answer (50 percent), creativity and overall impact (25) and online votes (25). Finalists will each receive P5,000 worth of school supplies and a year's supply of Ovaltine products.

For more information, visit www.smarterphilippines.com.

Asian students to attend BSM music festival

SOME 250 STUDENTS FROM across Southeast Asia are expected to attend the music festival Nov. 12-14 hosted by the British School Manila (BSM) in Taguig City.

The students represent 10 20 schools affiliated with the Federation of British International Schools in South East Asia (FOBISSEA).

The four-day festival will feature a variety of events, including performances by students and orchestras of major works by such composers as Haydn, Mendelssohn, John Williams, "Star" Wader and Bobby McFerrin, and smaller chamber ensembles.

Workshops will cover "Music Theater" (Mark Williams), "Music Therapy" (Claudia Sanchez), hip hop dancing, jazz percussion, Philippine instruments, composition, rock band, and introduction to the organ, among others.

Also featured are the performances by local musicians, including Lourdes Montinola on guitar ensemble, as well as a concert on Nov. 14 by the 2008 World Choir Games winner, the Los Filos Boys' Choir.

A gala concert on Nov. 13 of the school campus caps the event and will feature performances from the festival and others.

The British School Manila has more than 700 students aged 1-18 representing about 45 nationalities. British children make up 30 percent of the student population, Filipinos 25 percent, Americans 8 percent and Australians 8 percent.

CHEd should name alleged substandard nursing schools

THE TASUK UNION Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) urged the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to identify the 177 alleged substandard nursing schools in the country to parent consumers.

CHED was reported earlier to be set to phase out the nursing programs of the schools where, in the last five years, none of the graduates had passed the Nursing Licensure Examination.

TUCP secretary general and former Sen. Ernesto Herrera said the commission should identify the institutions with low-quality nursing programs so parents would not send their children there.

He pointed out that 177 was nearly half of the total number of nursing schools in the country so there was a high probability that students would continue to enroll in the institutions.

Herrera said CHED was not unable to provide quality service in terms of instruction and education was robbing students and their parents of their money.

"Naming has become a popular source for Filipinos who see it as a chance to land high-paying jobs abroad. More than 400,000 students are currently enrolled in the country's 460 nursing schools.

Lessons . . .

From page G4

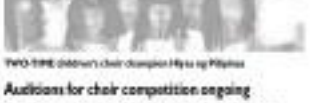
take it from the top again?"

I moved to the easy way. Ask and recall what he/she studied. I wish all teachers would take one hint: I have the least respect for teachers who never want to admit their mistakes. Everyone is human, and errors are a part of life. When teachers make mistakes and say so, never down up, they are not losing anyone, and students invariably lose respect for them. What respect is lost, the learning opportunity is gone.

I also hope parents will admit their mistakes. Teachers often tell me their parents expect too much, and share the wrong conclusions. When children flunk, parents blame the teacher. Though sometimes teachers may be at fault, more often than not, students have no one to blame but themselves. When parents encourage such behavior, they are doing them child abuse.

(To be concluded next week)

E-mail the author at felou-bunda@yahoo.com.



TWO-TYME children's choir champion Hiya ng Pilipinas

Auditions for choir competition ongoing

AUDITIONS FOR THE BBSC National Choral Competition Dec. 12-13 will be held in Visayas and Mindanao.

The Manila Broadcasting Company, organizer of the competition, said auditions will be held in Cagayan de Oro, Nov. 23; Cebu, Nov. 16; Iloilo, Nov. 18; and Davao City, Nov. 18.

The annual business competition for children's choirs and singers category for schools, churches, residential communities, companies, government agencies and special interest groups.

Grand prize winners in each category will receive P150,000 plus a trophy and other gifts from Star City.

Call 09063998886 or 09064149160, or e-mail siocochair@gmail.com for contest mechanics and registration forms.

Smarter than a fifth grader, but are you wiser than an ant?

From page G1

more to read."

It even demonstrated how motivating system gives people priority over cars. A wide lane is set aside for pedestrians, another for bicycles, another for collective transportation systems and still another for fire trucks, ambulances and other emergency vehicles.

The concrete between the lanes must be removed and the space planted to vegetables and fruit trees.

2. With cars and parking lots becoming more and more traditional, economic parking lots can be turned into parks, grasslands and vegetable gardens. One important reason there is hunger in urban areas is that we have turned highly productive land into concrete. With this turn around, farmers will be hired up and the space would create profits and production land.

3. Some of the land that is opened up must be turned into rainwater collectors, reservoirs for run-off waters from buildings and concrete spaces.

4. Collective transport systems must be realized. Instead of having the single-file system of cars, it will result in no traffic jams and will have perfect, easy location. To possess these trains or trams (known in the past, before cars became fashionable, as trams), we can use the energy that is in your supply from days—as you if fuel becomes a problem called "transportation"—transport is working model of this cars, powered trains cars is now available at the Baywalk of Pasay, Quezon City in Pakistan and may be viewed at www.thebaywalk.com.ph.

The Philippines is not exempt up and obvious. But, to communicate in traffic congestion:

a) healthier people; c) clean air; d) cheaper transportation; e) less temporarily required; f) workability; g) more distance; g) replenishing of groundwater (by rainwater collection).

Filipinos will set an example and show the world the meaning of sustainable transportation.

Realistic goals

Are all these goals possible? Of course, they are. Using high technology, humans have landed on the moon and now have space. What is needed here is only very basic technology, like technology of trains and of breaking up concrete to restore the soil so plants can grow. It only requires a change in the understanding that, long before the power of the combustion engine, long before the power of lorries, there was the power of men.

What have I lose now? Not much yet. As of present time, the jury is still out. It is this jury that will decide who is actually wiser—ants or humans.

For being a member of the human race, it is my most ardent hope that, as a species of animal, we are not as stupid as we seem to be.

Yes, "seem to be" is the words and ideas have to be a little wild, for they are the assault of thoughts upon the comfortable."

Tony Oposa, Jr. received the 2009 Ramon Magsaysay Award for saving the queen reef marine ecosystem in the environment. He is currently president of The Law of Nature Foundation, Inc. Oposa was commencement speaker of his Harvard graduating class and the only Filipino to be the subject of a full length feature in the Harvard Law Bulletin.

EUREKA! *Queena N. Lee-Chua*

Lessons from MJ beyond ABC, do-re-mi

(First of two parts)

I ADMIT IT. I AM A Michael Jackson fan. In grade school, we played his Jackson Five Christmas album every Yuletide; in high school, we danced to "Wanna Be Starting Something." In college, we were indebted to hear about his increasingly odd behavior—the plastic surgeries, the child molestation charges, the marriage to Lisa Marie Presley.

Sure, Jackson was all over his spiral, but not being condemned by this fact. Because against gender bias, possibly the best the world had ever known.

In the movie "This Is It," we got a glimpse of Jackson preparing for what was to have been his final (not-in-Nine) concert. Although almost two hours, it was still an all too brief glance at what went on behind the scenes.

We know Jackson had talent, but the movie was an eye-opener. Talent apparently was not enough. Jackson was a perfectionist who demanded the best of his game because he worked hard, extremely hard.

MICHAEL Jackson is talented, but he also works tirelessly and practices constantly to perfect his craft.

Prepare well

In "Seventeen Idol," the Judges Showdown, Jonas Brothers gushingly singers who flub or forget their lines. In class, I do not tolerate students who do not know or prove they should have prepared productively. Nonetheless, I sometimes hear their tears, but when students are brave, or worse, read straight from the textbook in front of the class, this means they are not prepared. They do not understand the details of their own report. The rest of the class becomes restless and unsure as they watch the preparation-clueless student's lack of respect for themselves, the teacher, their classmates.

Jackson was a savvy worker with, and his team do not to do lessons for him, the tempo, the choreography, the lighting, the interaction of all his pieces, and did not hip speak, unlike many so-called professional singers.

"I have worked with many professionals," said a second director, "but Michael runs the pinnacle."

Be hands on

In mathematics and science, one may to solve problems is to get our hands-dirty so as speak. If confronted with a difficult problem, students can (and should)—not told and not told a possible solution. This technique is rarely used by science/social studies, who have not time to some. "It's so long!" "My hand hurts!" "You mean we have to write down all those numbers?" You must be kidding!"

These students would rather sit around and wait, while more diligent classmates jot down figures. Instead of getting their hands dirty and finding the solution themselves, they would rather wait for secondhand ideas from others.

The same happens to be-earned lessons who do not have the time or energy to ask their tutors to solve problems on their own. So he or she gives the answer to assignments, which the pupils dutifully copy without much understanding.

When it is time to take the test, the students do not do well because they never got their hands dirty in the first place. They never attempted to solve problems themselves.

Jackson was very hands on, said another director. He participated in every aspect of the production, from approving T-Z costume he "Thriller" to creating that the introductory bars of "The Way You Make Me Feel" would "dominate" enough.

He would not rest until decided every practically perfect, and he did not hesitate to get his hands dirty. Thus, Jackson "would not be fooled," reached all the director.

Attend to details

Many students know what they want to be, but cannot be bothered with details. They want to write a great essay, but they do not bother to check their spelling. They want to be surrounded from the final results, but they even believe a test. They want to be variety players, but they abuse alcohol.

No doubt it was also hard on Jackson. In the duet "I Can't Stop Loving You," he knew not only his own great voice, but also his partner's. In "Smooth Criminal," when asked how he would know a test him one without watching the video, he said, "I learn to feel it."

Never stop learning

Jackson updated himself with new musical styles and dance moves. His musicianship & always timeless but, or more than 30 years old. Jackson still amazed that he could move with the best of them. And it is refreshing to see Jackson incorporate rap and break dances in his performances.

I get distressed with teachers who use 30-year old lesson plans. They do not bother to attend seminars to get updated because they find it a chore to integrate their styles. They can learn a thing or two from Jackson.

This school year, my new focus addresses his address, which not only is understanding but also up to date. My one of his asks his students questions, which I encourage—after all, that is what teachers are there for. His advice: teaches well, and because the subject matter

I am pleased to note that when my son asks a particularly tricky question to which I say, will don't have the answer), she has the foresight to say she will research the question. She makes the re- an effort to give him the answer the next day. This is a teacher who constantly updates herself, earning the respect and affection of the class in the process.

Learn from mistakes

"You are right, there is only one chord," Jackson said after he arranging the keyboardist's bass. "There are not two chords; I was wrong. I am sorry. There is only one." Then, without missing a beat, he asked politely, "Can we

LEIGHNE G.

Teaching, dancing the Bayanihan way

OVER THE YEARS, THE BAYANIHAN, THE national dance company of the Philippines, has touched the lives of people in several cities and provinces in the country through its Teaching and Teaching Lives transformative program.

Bayanihan has brought the program to Laguna, Marikina, Bohol, Bonos Isle and Cavite in hopes of creating and developing in young people pride in their heritage.

The program follows a one-year curriculum consisting of four modules, including Gumbalese, Dance and Songs, Bayanihan's People and Costumes, and Rehearsals/Performances on Stage.

In the first module, values and virtues are taught to develop self-esteem. Dance and Songs covers Filipino folk dances and songs, and other dances and songs. Arts and crafts, including costume-making are taught in People and Costumes. Their rehearsals are conducted for an actual stage performance.

Bayanihan also trains trainers, including student volunteers who assist in training children in a dance and music workshop.

The dance company works with local governments, community leaders and empowerment organizations as it tries to foster community service, respect for hard work, discipline and the Bayanihan spirit...helping youth strive to achieve a common goal.

The Bayanihan artistic team studies the community's customs and traditions and creates dances or a dance suite, which is featured in the company's season production.

The dances "Banghera and Lumadeva," created during a visit to Pagsanjan and "Isaguenes" and "Maridik Na" from Marikina were included in the 2007 season production Bonging on the Cross.

This year's season production, Bohol Jubilee, features "Hinanal Sinas sa Mandaue" and "Kinomon Bocana," renditions of visits to Cavite and Bonos Isle, respectively.

Under the Teaching and Teaching Lives program, selected public school students in a pilot are are trained by Bayanihan directors, musicians, dancers and alumni volunteers. A resettlement from the local government runs the progress and a public school adopts the program.

The Bayanihan team consists of Susan M. Ibrahim, artistic director Isabel Lanuza, dance director Ferdinand Jose, and music director Melito Vale Cruz.

The company pursues to transformative program through the Bayanihan Folk Arts Foundation, in collaboration with the Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco Foundation and the PWU center for Culture, Arts, Music and Sports.

STUDENTS (above, left) learn dances inspired by their community, such as the "Kaalyer" (right), thanks to Bayanihan's outreach program.

2009 IIE Lesson Plan Contest:

The Cory and Ninoy Legacies

TEACHERS, YOU HAVE ONLY until Nov. 16 to submit your entries to the IIE Lesson Plan Contest: The Cory and Ninoy Legacies.

The 2009 IIE Lesson Plan Contest is designed to encourage educators around the countries of learning guides that will build awareness of the roles of Cory and Ninoy Aquino in the restoration and subsequent deepening of the democratic process in the country, as well as develop an appreciation for newspapers.

Entries will be judged based on relevance to core lessons, clarity of expression, use of the Inquirer as a source and innovative and/or multimedia strategies, and explanation of assessment method.

Mechanics

- This contest is open to all active teachers of elementary (K-3 to grades) and high school (3rd- 4th years) students in public and private schools in Metro Manila.
- Each participant must prepare an original, unpublished, clear and concise lesson plan on the prescribed theme using the contents of the Inquirer. The lesson plan must be classroom-tested, and preferably adaptable for all grades and high school levels. It should come with an activity sheet for students and, where applicable, must include relevant activities.
- Each participant who submits an entry represents and warrants that it is truthful and not a copy, and that he/she is the author/owner of the entry. The entry must not infringe the intellectual property, privacy or publicity rights or any other legal or moral rights of any third party. Also, not been published or won awards and has not been published previously in any media.
- The lesson plan may be submitted in hard copy or on CD or disk by postal mail or hand delivery to:

Win a Sony Ericsson Greenheart mobile phone and P10,000 in Powerbooks gift certificates

IIE Lesson Plan Contest
Cory-Ninoy Legacies
c/o Learning Section
Philippine Daily Inquirer
3/F PSI Building, Pasong Tamo corner Ayala and Makati Sts., Makati City

Submissions may also be e-mailed to learning@inquirer.com.ph. Please appropriate. The closest of the school should be attained. A certification from the school administration should be submitted.

- Submissions must be accompanied by a cover sheet containing the following information:

—Teacher's name, home address, home phone, mobile phone, and e-mail address

—School address, school phone, and school e-mail address

—Grade(s)/Year(s) taught, subject(s) taught

—Lesson plan title, grade level focus, and content area

—A certification that the lesson plan represents his/her own research and preparation and is an original composition.

—Teacher's signature and date

- Lesson plans will be judged on suitability and relevance, accuracy of information, degree of activity engaging and stimulating students, organization and evaluation measures and to what degree they incorporate the use of the Inquirer as a learning resource. All entries will be judged by a panel of educators and journalists whose decision will be final on they relate to the determination of winners.
- Three winners will be selected from among the entries in the elementary level and three winners will be selected from among the entries in the high school level. Each of the six winners will be awarded a Sony Ericsson C901 Greenheart mobile phone and P10,000 worth of Powerbooks gift certificates.
- The winning lesson plans will be published in the Learning section.

To request complete mechanics, e-mail learning@inquirer.com.ph.

INQUIRER IN EDUCATION

Sony Ericsson

POWER BOOKS

Students of lakeshore towns come together to help save the environment

THE CONSERVATION OF LAGUNA de Bay's Environment and Resources (Clear) held recently the 4th Clear Youth Congress in Tanay, Rizal.

Over 75 students from communities around Laguna Lake in Tanay, Rizal and Los Baños, Luisiana, Pangil, Lake Banks and Bay, Laguna participated.

Clear is a tripartite partnership among the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands (SCPW) and Wetlands International Philippines.

With the theme "Pan-Laguna Water Management," the two-day congress sought to increase awareness on current environmental concerns that have an impact on Laguna Lake and to discuss other forms of pollution.

Participants were encouraged to discuss ways to implement environmental projects in their areas and plan future activities for environmental conservation.

The late environmental campaigner Odylle Mendoza, lead convenor of Earth Day Network Philippines, was keynote speaker. She talked about Ecotheology, the art and science of managing nature as resources so it would not become garbage.

Since 2003, Unilever has been championing environmental awareness and outreach programs among the youth of Laguna de Bay's lakeshore towns. To date, more than 200 Filipino youths have already committed to help save Laguna de Bay through the Clear partnership.

YOUTH CONGRESS. Some 75 students convened in Tanay, Rizal, to help save Laguna Lake.